United Nations S/PV.3672

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3672nd Meeting

Wednesday, 12 June 1996, 5.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Elaraby	(Egypt)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Nkgowe
	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Sane
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wisnumurti
	Italy	Mr. Fulci
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mrs. Albright

Agenda

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

96-85777 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of June, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Qin Huasun, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of May 1996. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Qin Huasun for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on the agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/1996/426, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following revisions to be made in the text of the draft resolution contained in document S/1996/426 in its provisional form.

In the fifth preambular paragraph, the following words should be inserted after the word "made": "in the work of the Special Commission".

In the second line of the fifth preambular paragraph, a comma should be inserted after the word "problems".

The penultimate preambular paragraph should be deleted.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it, as orally revised in its provisional form. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): Allow me at the outset, Sir, to express our satisfaction at your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of June, and to wish you and the entire delegation of Egypt success in your work.

My delegation wishes also to convey its sincere gratitude to Ambassador Qin Huasun and to the entire delegation of China for their work in the presidency of the Security Council last month.

In connection with the draft resolution before us, we wish like all other members of the Council to reaffirm our unfailing commitment to the complete implementation of the mandate that the Security Council has entrusted to the United Nations Special Commission. We support the Special Commission's efforts in that direction. The progress made in its work has rightly been recognized in the draft resolution.

Given that background, it is certainly regrettable that for the first time a Special Commission inspection team has been refused access to sites it wished to inspect, in violation of Security Council resolutions. Such an incident must not be repeated. The draft resolution sets out clear demands in that regard.

At the same time, we are pleased to note that the members of the Security Council have been able to resist the temptation to use threatening language and an approach based on force, which could only have complicated the work of the Special Commission and in the final analysis made it more difficult to achieve the major goal set out in Security Council resolutions: a lasting post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf.

In its present form, the draft resolution is clearly balanced in nature. The text incorporates important changes proposed by a number of delegations, including the delegation of the Russian Federation. The draft resolution urges Iraq further to cooperate with the United Nations; we consider that this will be advanced by the upcoming visit to Baghdad by the Chairman of the Special Commission, Ambassador Ekeus, which we hope will remove remaining problems, open the way to finalizing the disarmament file and bring closer the time when the Special Commission can report that it has fulfilled its mandate. This would be in the interest of the entire international community, in particular the countries of the Persian Gulf. It would also be in the interest of

Iraq itself, in so far as the Special Commission's completion of its mandate would trigger the mechanism for the lifting of sanctions, as set out in paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991).

In the light of what I have said, the Russian Federation has joined the consensus that has been achieved in the Security Council.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Casardi (Italy): I too wish to express our satisfaction, Sir, at seeing you as President of the Security Council for the month of June, and also to convey our gratitude and esteem to the representative of China, who served as President last month.

I wish to express the strong concern of my delegation over the incidents and events that have taken place in Iraq over the past two days. The flat refusal by the Iraqi authorities to allow an inspection team of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) access to two sites designated for inspection constitutes a clear violation of the relevant resolutions. In the past there have been various cases in which the Iraqi authorities delayed UNSCOM's access to inspection sites, but this is the first time that UNSCOM teams have been categorically denied access to designated inspection sites by the Iraqi authorities — and, as members know, twice in two days.

Therefore, the Council must respond promptly to this behaviour by the Baghdad Government and affirm the unacceptability of any attempt by Iraq to deny access to any site that the Special Commission wishes to inspect.

That is why Italy will vote in favour of this draft resolution. The draft resolution will send the strong message to Baghdad that it must cooperate fully with the Special Commission in accordance with all relevant resolutions. The language is balanced and reiterates the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Finally, I wish to express Italy's full support for the efforts of Ambassador Ekeus and the Special Commission in fulfilment of their mandate. I also stress our hope that the Iraqi Government will desist from relying on behaviour that is contrary to the resolutions of the Council and whose only effect is to delay the lifting of sanctions.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Italy for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Wang Xuexian (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): This being the first formal meeting of the Security Council in June, allow me, first of all, warmly to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the important function of the presidency of the Council. I am confident that with your wisdom, experience and outstanding ability you will certainly guide the work of the Security Council this month to complete success.

I would also like to thank you and the representatives of other delegations for the kind words addressed to Ambassador Qin Huasun and to the Chinese delegation.

The Chinese Government has always supported the work of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and we are concerned over the incident in which Iraq denied access to the inspection team. We are of the view that Iraq must fully implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and must cooperate fully with UNSCOM. This is in the interest of the Gulf region and the international community, as well as in the interest of Iraq itself.

We are also of the view that the reasonable and legitimate security concerns of Iraq as a sovereign State should be respected by all parties, that Security Council resolution 687 (1991) should be implemented comprehensively and that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq should be safeguarded.

In view of the above, and given the fact that the amendments we proposed have already been accepted by the sponsors, the Chinese delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Council.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of China for his kind words addressed to me.

Sir John Weston (United Kingdom): I add my words to those of others in congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of office and in expressing full confidence in your chairmanship this month. I would like to thank Ambassador Qin Huasun and his delegation for having conducted our business so well last month.

In his report to the Security Council of 11 April 1996 (S/1996/258), Ambassador Ekeus noted that

> "there are still significant deficiencies and gaps in Iraq's disclosures" *(S/1996/258, para. 118)*

over its programmes of weapons of mass destruction, that

> "The Commission has noted recent acquisitions of prohibited items by Iraq", (*ibid.*)

and that

> "a full accounting and disposal of Iraq's holdings of prohibited items has not been made." (*ibid.*)

It is against this background that, once again, the Security Council now has to adopt a draft resolution — in this case, co-sponsored by the United Kingdom — in response to Iraqi defiance of the will of the international community as expressed in the Council's earlier resolutions regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes.

My delegation takes no pleasure in this. But it is right that the Council has reacted quickly and robustly in the wake of Iraq's obstruction yesterday and today of an inspection team of the Special Commission.

It is clearly unacceptable for Iraq to declare that any facilities or sites are off limits. Ensuring security in the Gulf requires that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction be eliminated. This can only be assured if Iraq is completely open with the Special Commission. The Special Commission has made it clear to Iraq that it is still not satisfied that the information it has obtained and the explanations it has been given provide a complete picture of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes. It is also apparent that Iraq continues to withhold information.

The Special Commission therefore has no alternative but to continue with intrusive, no-notice inspections, which are fully within its mandate. Inspections are not designed to persecute Iraq or to infringe its sovereignty. It is in Iraq's own interest to cooperate, as only by that means can progress be made towards fulfilling the overall requirements of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

I would finally like to say a word of thanks to Ambassador Ekeus and the Special Commission for the efforts they have undertaken to fulfil the Council's mandates in extremely difficult circumstances. The British Government attaches great importance to the Commission's work, and we shall continue to support fully its efforts, as we have done in the past.

The President *(interpretation from Arabic)*: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Eitel (Germany): Allow me, too, to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of your high office. The German delegation trusts that you will lead the Council successfully through this month and pledges its support. Allow me, at the same time, to express my delegation's thanks to Ambassador Qin Huasun and his collaborators for the excellent work done in chairing the Council last month.

Once again, the Security Council is confronted with a situation in which Iraq is preventing a team of inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) from carrying out an inspection. While there have been several such cases in the past, the incidents of yesterday and today are particularly grave: first, because the Iraqi leadership is trying to define a category of sites to be excluded from any inspections and, secondly, because this incident comes at a time in which Iraq has repeatedly underlined its commitment to cooperate fully with UNSCOM.

Iraq's claims that its sovereignty and independence are infringed upon by UNSCOM inspections are obviously not valid. Iraq has accepted Security Council resolution 687 (1991), including the role UNSCOM is given by that resolution. UNSCOM can only fulfil its task if its inspection rights are fully respected by Iraq and if it is allowed to work without obstruction. In that respect, we would like once again to express our full confidence in Ambassador Ekeus and his staff. The current events are yet another example of the difficulties and even risks UNSCOM members are facing in carrying out the duties placed upon them by this Council. The Security Council owes them its fullest support.

The draft resolution we are to adopt today is the appropriate answer to the unacceptable actions taken by the Iraqi Government to prevent UNSCOM from carrying out no-notice inspections. It sends a clear signal that the Security Council will not tolerate attempts to undermine UNSCOM's inspection rights.

My Government hopes that the Iraqi Government will take this draft resolution very seriously and draw the right conclusions from it. We hope that Iraq will

understand that any obstruction to UNSCOM will only prolong the time the Special Commission needs to complete its work. We therefore appeal to the Iraqi Government to re-establish immediately its cooperation with the Special Commission, particularly by removing any obstacle to inspections required and requested.

It is in this hope that Germany will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Germany for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Park (Republic of Korea): My delegation would like to begin by paying a tribute to Ambassador Qin Huasun of China and his delegation, who steered the Council so skilfully and smoothly in the presidency during the month of April. My delegation also takes this opportunity to assure Ambassador Elaraby of Egypt, whose eminent leadership and expertise in international affairs are highly admired, of our readiness fully to cooperate with him so that the Council can discharge its challenging tasks in the most efficient manner possible.

Like many other members of the Council, my delegation has held a deep interest in and concern over the sanctions on Iraq, especially since they bear serious humanitarian consequences. For this reason, we welcomed the recent conclusion of the memorandum of understanding on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995). Supporting the view of the Secretary-General in his introduction to the Blue Book on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict, we had also hoped that a positive outcome would emanate from the talks on resolution 986 (1995), thus opening a new and promising chapter in the relations between the international community and Iraq.

Given our optimistic expectations, the incidents of 11 and 12 June near Baghdad, which prompted the Council to act through the draft resolution before us, have been a source of great disappointment and alarm. It was our strong hope that the pragmatism and realism that had prevailed throughout the talks on resolution 986 (1995) would be reflected in all aspects of Iraq's external relations, including its interactions with the Special Commission. We are confident that Iraq's full cooperation with the Special Commission, in accordance with the relevant resolutions, including resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991), will point the relationship between Iraq and the community of nations in a more desirable and mutually beneficial direction by contributing to the restoration of Iraq's standing as a responsible member.

In the circumstances, my delegation finds it necessary to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support for the Special Commission and to commend Ambassador Ekeus for his discretion and patience, which have been indispensable in carrying out the mandates entrusted to it by the Council.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Larraín (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation offers you, Sir, its warmest congratulations on seeing you preside over the Council's work. While wishing you great success in these responsibilities, we reiterate our offer of fullest cooperation. I also wish to convey our gratitude to Ambassador Qin Huasun and his delegation for their excellent work in May.

My delegation wishes to express its uneasiness and concern over the incidents of 11 and 12 June, reported by the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Special Commission, a Special Commission inspection team was denied access to sites the Commission had designated. Such behaviour constitutes an undeniable violation of the spirit of Security Council resolutions.

We therefore fully support the draft resolution on this question, since we consider that there is no justification for the attitude shown by Iraq in refusing to allow recent inspections by the Special Commission.

We call on the Government of Iraq not to stray from the path of full cooperation agreed upon with regard to the Special Commission. Lastly, my delegation wishes to reaffirm its full support for the Commission and its Chairman, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, for the efforts they have made to implement the mandate of the resolutions of this Council.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Chile for his kind words addressed to me.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1996/426, as orally revised in its provisional form.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Botswana, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution, as orally revised in its provisional form, has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1060 (1996).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mrs. Albright (United States of America): Let me begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency for this month. We look forward to working with you.

Let me also extend my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Qin Huasun and the Chinese delegation for all their fine work last month.

In March, when Iraq last blocked access to inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), the Council was forced to act to remind Baghdad of its obligations. My Government hoped that the message we sent registered. At that time, we explained that Iraq would respond only if the Council acted quickly and forcefully. Since it failed to respond adequately then, here we go again.

Let me be clear: this Council must not tolerate challenges to its authority. The Iraqi regime must not be allowed to interfere with the work of the United Nations Special Commission. That is why it is so important that our message be swift and strong. This resolution meets those tests.

UNSCOM has been empowered by this Council to ensure the end of the Iraqi weapons-of-mass-destruction programme and to act within that mandate to see that Iraq never again threatens the international community. It should be clear to all that the progress that has occurred in dismantling Iraq's weapons-of-mass-destruction capability is the result of UNSCOM's determination to follow the evidence wherever it might lead and whether the Iraqi regime likes it or not. My Government is most appreciative of the work of Chairman Ekeus and the Special Commission. They have a difficult job and they do it admirably. They have my Government's full support.

Special Commissioner Ambassador Ekeus has described to the Council the care UNSCOM takes to ensure that in carrying out its mandate, it has respected Iraq's sovereignty and made sure that Iraq's security has not been threatened. We can only wish that Iraq were as diligent in meeting its commitments.

Iraq's assertion that its security is threatened by unarmed inspections is laughable. It is not the inspectors who threaten Iraq, but Iraq which threatens the region. The invasion and occupation of Kuwait, the campaign against the Kurds and Shiah and the use of terrorism by Iraq are ample and incontrovertible proof that this regime still poses a serious threat to the security of the region.

Blocking UNSCOM's inspectors from an entire category of suspect sites is a new situation and a matter of grave concern to the United States Government. If the situation persists, as it has on occasions in the past, the Council will have no choice but to conclude that Iraq is in material breach of its obligations under Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of the United States for her kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*interpretation from French*): Allow us first of all to express our satisfaction at seeing you, Mr. President, guiding our work and for the opportunity to congratulate the Ambassador of China for his outstanding guidance of the Council last month.

The French delegation supported the resolution that has just been adopted, as it believes that the attitude of the Iraqi authorities justified the Security Council's reaction and its reaffirmation of the rights and obligations of all. We would have preferred — as we said yesterday and reiterate today — an immediate reaction from our Council through a presidential statement. We regret that this path could not be followed right away, for it was justified by events.

The text that has just been adopted is consonant with the demands of the situation and is in keeping with the provisions already agreed upon and dictated by the Security Council. Our hope today is that the Chairman of the Special Commission, who is charged with ensuring the full implementation of the provisions of resolution 687 (1991) and of the other relevant resolutions dealing with the disarmament of Iraq, will pursue his dialogue with the Iraqi authorities with the will to do everything possible to reconcile the objectives of his mission, as expressed in the relevant resolutions, with the necessary respect for the sovereignty and political independence of Iraq, as also expressed in the relevant resolutions. We take due note here that Chairman Ekeus — for whom we are pleased to reaffirm our support here — intends to be present on site very soon.

A few weeks ago, the Council was gratified by the signing of the memorandum of application of resolution 986 (1995). Beyond the possibilities that opened up for the alleviation of the difficulties afflicting the Iraqi population, we were all also pleased that the signing of the memorandum was an indication of progress on the part of Iraq and of the country's positive attitude in concluding those negotiations. We believe that this element deserves consideration by all, including by the Security Council and therefore by the Special Commission. It is in Iraq's interest, as we have often recalled, to allow the Special Commission to complete its task as quickly as possible in order that the Security Council, in its turn, can be in a position to implement resolution 687 (1991) in its entirety, and in particular operative paragraph 22. Any delay caused to the Commission's action will be felt first and foremost by Iraq.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of France for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Nkgowe (Botswana): Let me first of all convey to you, Sir, the congratulations of my delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month. I wish you every success in your work. I also wish to thank Ambassador Qin Huasun of China for the excellent manner in which he guided the work of the Council last month.

My delegation regrets the decision of the Government of Iraq to deny United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspection teams access to two Republican Guard facilities in Baghdad that UNSCOM had designated for inspection. This is not completely new. Iraq has in the past denied UNSCOM inspection teams access to certain sites and facilities on the grounds of their sensitivity in terms of the national security, sovereignty and pride of Iraq. While on previous occasions the teams were ultimately allowed access to those sites, the difference is that for the first time, Iraq has not only flatly denied access to the sites in question, but it has also insisted that no inspections would be allowed to take place at any facilities Iraq may consider sensitive to its security and sovereign concerns. This Iraqi disposition towards UNSCOM calls into question the commitment of the Government of Iraq to the full implementation of Security Council resolutions.

My delegation fully appreciates the sovereign and national security concerns of the Government of Iraq, but it is equally important that Iraq should comply with the resolutions of the Security Council. My delegation would therefore like to appeal to the Government of Iraq to cooperate with UNSCOM and to allow the inspection teams immediate and unrestricted access to all sites designated for inspection. We do not believe compliance with Security Council resolutions necessarily violates the sovereign rights and national security interests of Iraq. To the contrary, there is merit in Iraq's cooperating with UNSCOM and, by so doing, complying with Security Council resolutions, in that UNSCOM would speedily complete its work and thus pave the way for the modification and ultimate lifting of the sanctions regime. An overly sensitive position on sovereignty and national security is not in the long-term interests of Iraq, according to this reasoning.

Iraq has in the recent past declared its readiness to work and cooperate fully with the Special Commission in addressing outstanding issues on biological, chemical and missile weapons programmes without let or hindrance. We welcomed this Iraqi decision and foresight. The present Iraqi actions, however, create a deficit between Iraq's declared intentions and the translation of those intentions into concrete action on the ground. It is the wish and hope of my delegation that Iraq can cooperate with UNSCOM, so that the relevant resolutions of the Security Council can be speedily implemented, thus making it possible for the Security Council to assume its responsibilities under their appropriate provisions.

It is for all these reasons that my delegation voted in favour of the resolution we have just adopted.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Botswana for his kind words addressed to me.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Egypt.

Egypt voted in favour of the draft resolution just adopted. This is an expression of Egypt's firm position on Iraq's need fully to respect all Security Council resolutions.

Egypt affirms the need to implement all the provisions of those resolutions with regard to the Commission's right to inspect the sites it deems necessary, and its access to those sites, so that it can complete its tasks and fulfil its responsibilities — particularly the provisions of Security Council resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991). In this context my delegation reaffirms its appreciation for the efforts of the Special Commission and those its Chairman, Mr. Rolf Ekeus.

The most recent report of the Special Commission states that Iraq has made progress towards implementing the resolutions pertaining to the elimination, destruction and monitoring of weapons of mass destruction; this is referred to in the fifth preambular paragraph of the resolution adopted today. There is no doubt that Iraq's complete cooperation with the Commission is the only means of guaranteeing the Commission's completion of its task. It is one of the requirements for lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq and for ending the suffering of the people of Iraq resulting from those sanctions.

While Egypt welcomes the agreement between Iraq and the United Nations Secretariat on the implementation of resolution 986 (1995), which allows for the sale of Iraqi oil in order to provide funds for some of the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people, it believes that further progress must be made towards the implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, thereby opening the way to lifting all the sanctions imposed upon Iraq.

Finally, my delegation affirms that the aim of calling on Iraq to respect all Security Council resolutions is not to undermine Iraqi sovereignty or to jeopardize Iraqi national security.

I now resume my function as President of the Security Council.

There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3673

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3673rd Meeting
Friday, 14 June 1996, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Elaraby	(Egypt)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Nkgowe
	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Germany	Mr. Kaul
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Queta
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wisnumurti
	Italy	Mr. Fulci
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mrs. Albright

Agenda

The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1996/412)

96-85793 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan (S/1996/412)

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Tajikistan in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Alimov (Tajikistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan, document S/1996/412.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1996/430, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

The first speaker is the representative of Tajikistan, on whom I now call.

Mr. Alimov (Tajikistan) (*interpretation from Russian*): Allow me sincerely to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the post of President of the Security Council this month, and to wish you success in your multifaceted activity aimed at ensuring effective work by the Council. Allow me also to express our gratitude to the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China, Ambassador Qin Huasun, President of the Security Council for the month of May, for the significant and positive work he did as President.

The Government of Tajikistan highly appreciates the assistance of the international community in resolving the inter-Tajik conflict. I have been entrusted, on behalf of the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, with conveying his words of genuine gratitude to the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, for the enormous attention and efforts directed to the achievement of peace and accord in Tajikistan.

My Government notes with great satisfaction that the Security Council pays constant attention to the question of an inter-Tajik settlement and is taking concrete steps aimed at the rapid achievement of national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Ramiro Píriz-Ballón, who made a significant contribution to a settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict, and we express the hope that the recently appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gerd Merrem, will successfully continue these efforts.

An important and invaluable contribution to ensuring a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan is being made by States and regional international organizations, acting as observers at the inter-Tajik talks.

We note with satisfaction the existence of close and useful ties between the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), as well as with the border forces in Tajikistan, which clearly is an important factor in stabilizing the situation.

The unresolved conflict and its socio-economic consequences are a heavy burden on the shoulders of the long-suffering people of Tajikistan. In this connection, I consider it extremely important to reaffirm that my Government is fully committed to a solely peaceful political solution to existing problems, and firmly favours the continuation of the inter-Tajik talks under the aegis of the United Nations, despite their relatively meagre results so far, for which the government delegation is not to blame.

In striving for an early resumption of the activities of the Joint Commission on the implementation of the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country, my Government in a note verbale dated 8 June 1996 to UNMOT once again reaffirmed its readiness to provide protection for the representatives of the opposition who are members of that Commission. We are counting on this step by the Government removing the existing obstacles and speeding up a resumption of the activities of the Joint Commission.

Attaching the greatest importance to a negotiated settlement, my Government is closely cooperating with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and with UNMOT, and is also taking additional steps to establish civil peace and accord in the country.

The initiative of the President, His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, led to the signing on 9 March 1996 in Dushanbe of an agreement on social accord in Tajikistan, to which, along with the leaders of the country, the leaders of nearly 40 political parties, social movements, national associations and religious communities put their signatures. The agreement represents a model for national reconciliation; it offers the prospect of building a pluralistic democratic society with high standards in the sphere of the human rights and equal participation of all political and regional forces in the public life of the country.

That same objective was pursued by my Government when, at the inter-Tajik talks, it proposed the initiative of holding a special session of the Parliament with the participation of the leaders of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan and other representatives of the United Tajik Opposition. We are firmly convinced that this session could have become a turning-point in the process of national reconciliation. One can only regret the fact that, despite the appeal of the Secretary-General, conveyed to the leaders of the opposition through his former Special Envoy, Mr. Ismat Kittani, the leaders of the Opposition refused to take part in the work of the special session, thereby violating the sole agreement set down in the Ashgabat declaration.

To achieve its objectives, the irreconcilable armed wing of the opposition — apparently not without the consent of the leaders of the United Tajik Opposition — is inclined to pursue its policy of exerting continuous armed pressure on the Government. These forces continue to make wide use of the tactics of terrorism and intimidation and systematically and flagrantly violate the Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country. On 21 May this year, the Security Council rightly condemned the planned and organized offensive acts of the armed Tajik opposition, which have caused many casualties among the civilian population.

We are grateful to donor countries, the United Nations specialized agencies and international organizations for their efforts to provide disinterested assistance to our country. However, despite the intensive humanitarian support of the international community, the situation remains critical. Moreover, heavy rains, spring floods and mud slides have caused appreciable losses to the national economy, the agricultural sector in particular. There have been human casualties and significant damage in the social sphere. As a result, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated still further. The population of Tajikistan continues to experience acute shortages of food and medicine. Despite my Government's strenuous efforts to mitigate the consequences of the natural disasters, all this undeniably has a negative effect on the country's economy, which has already been disrupted by civil war, and on the social welfare of the people.

We express the hope that the Security Council's appeal of 21 May 1996

> "to respond promptly in support of the humanitarian relief efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations" (*S/PV.3665, p. 3*)

for Tajikistan will be heard and that support for the people of my country in these difficult times will be forthcoming.

I consider it necessary to stress once again that the Government of Tajikistan believes that the road to peace in the country passes through the continuation of inter-Tajik dialogue and the resolution of existing differences on the basis of constitutional legality and solely through political means. We are convinced that it is precisely in this way that stability can be restored in the country and that our people will have the opportunity to advance further on the path of national accord, the development of democratic social institutions and the implementation of economic reforms.

On this basis, the Government of Tajikistan would welcome a decision by the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in

Tajikistan, because the personnel of UNMOT, representing the United Nations presence in the region, to a great extent promotes stability and the continuation of the peace process as a whole.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Tajikistan for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Fulci (Italy): First of all, allow me to express to you, Sir, my warmest personal congratulations on your assumption of the duties of the President of the Security Council for the month of June. Having known you since the first day I came here, I have not the slightest doubt that your performance will be remembered.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to the Permanent Representative of China, Ambassador Qin Huasun, for the way in which he exercised his duties most impartially during the month of May.

I have the honour to speak in my capacity as Presidency of the European Union.

The Security Council has closely monitored the situation in Tajikistan over the past few months and expressed its great concern at the worsening of conditions on the ground. Military activities by the opposition and, more recently, by the Government have shown that the cease-fire is at best frail and subject to large-scale violations.

In our opinion, the presidential statement of 21 May sent a clear message to the parties after the premeditated offensive by the armed Tajik opposition in the Tavildara region. The Council noted with concern that the spiral of violence had taken the lives of civilians and of members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

At the same time, the political stalemate in the inter-Tajik dialogue following the Ashgabat talks was blamed on the loss of trust between the parties. Some of the elements in this troublesome picture were the opposition's attitude in the negotiations and in the field; the lack of adequate written safety guarantees given by the Government to opposition members on the Joint Commission; and the delay in investigating the fate of Mr. Zafar Rakhmonov, abducted last February.

We share the assessment of the Secretary-General in his report (S/1996/412) of 7 June and endorse his proposals. We would like to focus on the following three aspects.

A solution to this conflict can be achieved only through the inter-Tajik dialogue. But the necessary political solution remains elusive. Therefore, the inter-Tajik talks should be resumed without delay. Unfortunately, opposition members chose not to participate in the special session of the Parliament, organized on the initiative of President Rakhmonov as a first step towards the participation of all political forces in Tajikistan in the reconciliation process. As the Secretary-General's report indicates, the opposition leaders have reiterated their ideas on the establishment of a Council of National Reconciliation. Whatever formula is ultimately pursued, national reconciliation must clearly be a central element of the inter-Tajik dialogue.

We welcome the appointment of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan, Mr. Gerd Merrem, who has initiated contacts with the parties and the leaders of the region. A first result has been obtained: the Government and the opposition have agreed to extend for another three months, until 26 August 1996, the validity of the Tehran Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostile Acts on the Tajik-Afghan Border and within the Country. However, the cease-fire has been seriously violated and, according to the latest reports, fighting continues.

The parties must respect obligations they have undertaken. The international community cannot continue to provide support and commitment without a much greater level of cooperation from the parties themselves. They must build upon the initially positive signals given in May when they decided to extend the cease-fire. We rely upon the mediating efforts of the Special Representative. Concrete confidence-building measures, such as the unconditional release of the prisoners captured by the opposition in the Tavildara area, should be implemented.

In this framework, we support the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the UNMOT mandate for another six months. However, we remain concerned that delays in implementing an effective cease-fire may create a situation in which direct United Nations involvement after this six-month period will not be advisable. We cannot tolerate threats to the security of UNMOT personnel, nor can we allow restrictions to be

placed on the freedom of movement of the military observers for reasons unrelated to their security. Now, more than ever, a clear message must be sent to the parties that the United Nations considerable efforts, in terms of both financial and human resources, as well as participation in the negotiations, cannot be taken for granted.

Further delays in reaching a significant outcome in the inter-Tajik dialogue may prejudice not only the momentum in the negotiations that the United Nations is trying to maintain, but also the financial support badly needed by a population and a country so much afflicted by this crisis.

The following countries associated with the European Union align themselves with this statement: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Iceland and Norway also align themselves with this statement.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Italy for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Kaul (Germany): Let me begin by saying that Germany fully supports the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union and the States that have again associated themselves with another important statement of the European Union.

Today's meeting of the Security Council provides an important opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved by the efforts of the parties to the conflict, and those of this Council, the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives, and other States and entities involved. The result is that there is still intensive fighting in the Tavildara area, the humanitarian situation is very serious, and the prospects for progress in the inter-Tajik talks are bleak. The Tehran Agreement of 17 September 1994, which constitutes the basis for a negotiated political settlement, has at best been partially implemented.

The armed Islamist opposition seems to be about to take control of a large and strategically important part of Tajikistan. The region of Leninabad and other areas are gradually slipping from Government control. There are even some signs of disunity within the Kulyabi-dominated Government. We therefore see a concrete danger of an "Afghanization" of the conflict, with serious consequences for regional stability.

Both parties bear a heavy load of responsibility for this development. We see, however, a major obstacle to a settlement in the Government's failure to open itself up to the participation of other regional and political groups in Tajikistan. A viable political compromise cannot consist only in power-sharing between the parties to the conflict, but must aim at establishing genuine democratic decision-making processes. Without a readiness by the Government to genuinely share power, however, a compromise cannot be reached.

Germany supports the draft resolution, which provides for an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for another six months. We attribute, however, great importance to the intention expressed in both the Secretary-General's report and the draft resolution to seriously review the future of the United Nations commitment in Tajikistan after these six months, if there is no meaningful progress in the peace process.

In this context, what is needed first and foremost is an immediate cessation of hostilities by both sides. If both parties continue to play the military card and drag their feet on a continuation of the inter-Tajik talks, the result will be only pain and more misery for the people of Tajikistan. We call upon the parties to seek a peaceful, negotiated settlement; if this call is not heard and if the obligations undertaken by the parties are not respected, the Council will eventually be forced to draw its conclusions.

If UNMOT is to effectively fulfil its mandate, all restrictions on its freedom of movement must be lifted, especially by the Government of Tajikistan. Verbal assurances that this will happen are not sufficient. Furthermore, it is imperative that the Joint Commission established to monitor cease-fire violations resume its work, after the walkout by the opposition, which was prompted by the kidnapping of the opposition Co-Chairman of the Commission on 24 February 1996. It is regrettable that there has been no news from the Government of Tajikistan on the results of its

investigation of this incident. On the other hand, we have noted that the Government has obviously now given the written security guarantees asked for by the opposition, and we encourage the opposition to accept them in good faith.

The parties to the conflict, both the Government of Tajikistan and the opposition, should now understand the stern warning message given to them in today's draft resolution. The Council is giving the parties another, and probably a last, six-month chance, to actually demonstrate their commitment to an effective cease-fire and to national reconciliation, to be achieved with the assistance of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNMOT and the Commonwealth of Independent States peace-keepers.

Germany is pleased that it was able to make a voluntary contribution of DM 1 million to UNMOT in order to provide it with an air transport capacity.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to, and thank, the members of UNMOT for carrying out their mission under what are now very difficult circumstances.

The President: I call on the representative of the United Kingdom on a point of order.

Sir John Weston (United Kingdom): I am sorry to interrupt the normal proceedings, but I have to comment on something the representative of Germany has just said. In referring to Ambassador Fulci's statement, he said that he was speaking on behalf of the European Union. I have the statement of Ambassador Fulci in front of me, and he nowhere claims in his statement to be speaking on behalf of the European Union. He was careful to say that he was speaking in his capacity as Presidency of the European Union. That is because my own instructions did not permit me to agree to his speaking on behalf of the European Union, for reasons with which the German delegation is familiar and which have nothing to do with the subject on our agenda today.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Russian Federation is extremely concerned by the lack of progress towards a political settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan and, in particular, by the wide-scale hostilities in the Tavildara region. The Tajik parties must indeed reaffirm their declared dedication solely to a peaceful political settlement of the conflict on the basis of mutual concessions and compromises. We welcome the statement just made by the representative of Tajikistan containing such assurances. We are firmly convinced that only full and unswerving implementation by the parties of all the commitments they have undertaken and of Security Council resolutions can create the requisite conditions for successful progress in the negotiating process. We firmly condemn the terrorist acts against the civilian population and the Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Terrorism must come to an end.

Russia is in favour of making the inter-Tajik dialogue truly continuous and dynamic. We welcome the agreement on the resumption of the Ashgabat round of inter-Tajik talks. We call upon the parties to take a responsible attitude towards their participation and to demonstrate the political will to achieve compromise solutions to key problems in the settlement.

We wish all success to the Secretary-General's Special Representative in his noble efforts. As an observer State at the inter-Tajik talks, Russia will render him all possible support.

The Russian delegation attaches great importance to the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, whose activities are an important factor for restraint and stabilization and provide indispensable support for constructive political dialogue. The Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the CIS and the Russian border forces will continue to support the Mission's efforts in implementing its mandate. The Tajik parties must immediately eliminate all obstacles and create the requisite conditions for the Mission to function effectively and for the speedy resumption of the Joint Commission's activities in monitoring the implementation of the cease-fire agreement. We note the reaffirmation by the Government of Tajikistan of its dedication to the principle of freedom of movement of the United Nations observers and of the provision of security guarantees for opposition members of the Joint Commission.

The Russian delegation expresses its gratitude to all members of the Council for their support of the fundamental provisions of the draft resolution we have introduced and for their important proposals and additions, which have substantially enhanced its political weight.

We trust that the Tajik parties will show full responsibility and will note and heed the unanimous position of the Security Council.

Mr. Nkgowe (Botswana): The delegation of Botswana is deeply troubled by the large-scale fighting in Tajikistan. The parties are clearly unwilling to meet the conditions set out in the resolutions of the Security Council. It is regrettable that the situation in Tajikistan remains what it was six months ago, when the Council last reviewed the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). In other words, there has been no meaningful progress in the inter-Tajik peace talks, despite the stated intentions of the parties to resolve their differences through political dialogue. It is disturbing indeed that the hostilities are reported to have reached new levels of intensity since the civil war ended in 1992.

My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us. UNMOT is doing a good job under very trying conditions, but we do not believe that now is the time to withdraw the Mission, as this would be likely to aggravate the situation in Tajikistan and adversely affect the peace and stability of the whole region. The resolution, however, rightly puts the parties on notice, in very clear language, that the extension of UNMOT's mandate is contingent upon the respect by the parties for the Tehran Agreement, an effective cease-fire and progress in the peace talks. The parties must understand that UNMOT's mandate cannot be extended indefinitely. Its extension depends on the cooperation of the parties themselves and on their demonstrable commitment to work towards the political settlement of their differences.

It is our hope that the parties will take serious note of paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, which expresses the intention of the Council to review the future commitment of the United Nations in Tajikistan at the end of the next mandate period, should the prospects for a lasting peace not have improved. This is in line with the Secretary-General's statement, in paragraph 29 of his report, that if the prospects for a comprehensive peace settlement have not improved by the next review period, the Council will have to consider alternative options for the future of UNMOT, including the possibility of its withdrawal.

Finally, my delegation wishes to welcome the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan, Mr. Merrem. We wish him every success in his new job.

Mr. Park (Republic of Korea): At the outset, my delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his detailed and objective report on the developments in Tajikistan, which also contains a timely recommendation for the Council's future course of action.

It is with great concern and dismay that my delegation has been following the deteriorating situation in Tajikistan, which, according to the Secretary-General's report, is at its worst and most volatile stage since the end of the civil war of 1992. In particular, the intensification of fighting around Tavildara since early May is a source of alarm. We are worried that the fall of Tavildara to the opposition on 12 May and the launching of a counter-offensive by Government forces on 2 June may be an ominous sign of the potential spread of violence plaguing the country.

As we are all aware, the military and the political dimensions of any conflict are closely intertwined. The situation in Tajikistan is no exception in this regard. In our view, the delay in the resumption of the inter-Tajik talks is just as disturbing as the situation on the ground. The very fact that the cease-fire has not been faithfully heeded by the Tajik parties confirms the vital importance of political will for the effective implementation of the commitment of a military nature.

In this vein, my delegation is encouraged to know that the Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition both believe that the conflict in their country can be resolved only through political dialogue. We furthermore are relieved by the news that the two sides have finally agreed on the resumption of the inter-Tajik talks in early July.

We take this opportunity to express welcome and support to Mr. Gerd Merrem, the Secretary-General's new Special Representative for Tajikistan, as he vigorously works to bridge the gap between the views of the two parties and forge a genuine bond of national reconciliation. In addition to facilitating the agreement on the resumption of the inter-Tajik talks, he also played an instrumental role in securing the temporary but critical extension of the cease-fire agreement in May.

Although the Secretary-General requested that enough time be allowed to see the full outcome of the Special Representative's efforts, we are pleased that within a fairly short period of time, his mission has already had such positive results. Clearly, one of the major tasks of the Special Representative under the current circumstances is to help the Tajik parties take the necessary steps to translate their words into meaningful

action. We pledge him our full support as he takes on these critical challenges.

Keeping in mind that the proper functioning of institutional frameworks is also key for improving the situation in Tajikistan, I should like to make the following points. First and foremost, the safety and freedom of movement of the personnel of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) should be ensured. If the Tajik parties truly value the role played by UNMOT in stabilizing the situation in the country, this is the minimum that should be provided by the parties directly concerned.

Secondly, the activities of the Joint Commission, which has not been functioning for security reasons, should begin again without delay. As the Joint Commission is the only institutional framework created by the Tehran Agreement of 1994 and as it is composed of the parties directly concerned, we believe that the early resumption of its work is of great importance for the effective implementation of the cease-fire agreement.

Thirdly, UNMOT's regular contacts with the Russian border forces and the peace-keeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as the close cooperation between UNMOT and the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which have to date been satisfactory, should continue to be further encouraged. Indeed, the liaison between UNMOT and regional arrangements serve as compelling evidence of the mutual benefit of such cooperation.

Lastly, the establishment of an additional liaison post at Taloqan should be expedited for the purpose of maintaining contact with the opposition leaders stationed there. In this regard, the speedy finalization of the necessary arrangements between the Afghan authorities and the United Tajik Opposition is required above all else.

Before concluding, I also wish to note the Secretary-General's recommendation that the Council review the United Nations commitment in the theatre of Tajikistan if the prospects for progress have not improved by the end of the next six months. My delegation truly hopes that this will serve as a strong message to the parties concerned that without the prompt restoration of an effective cease-fire, as well as due progress in political talks, the Council may have to respond accordingly.

As the document before us seems appropriately to reflect all the aforementioned points, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. Martínez Blanco (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to express to you, Sir, our sincere congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. Your outstanding skills and experience guarantee the success of our work. We offer our full cooperation to you and to the delegation of Egypt. We wish also to congratulate Ambassador Qin Huasun and the delegation of China on the excellent work accomplished this past May.

My delegation states its firm conviction that the solution to the current conflict in Tajikistan can be achieved only through peaceful means, through dialogue between the parties and on the basis of mutual commitments and concessions. Regrettably, because of the differences that still remain between the parties, the situation in Tajikistan has taken a clear turn for the worse, and no progress is being made in the negotiations towards a political settlement that would enable them to restore peace and national harmony.

The repeated statements by the Tajik parties to the effect that there should be no military solution to the conflict, that they are in favour of political dialogue and that they are prepared to resume negotiations seem contradictory in view of the resumption of hostilities in the country. Events such as those that took place in the Tavildara region, which resulted in the loss of human lives and aggravated the humanitarian situation, cast doubt on the parties' sincerity and their desire for peace.

My delegation believes that if the parties truly wish to continue with the negotiating process, they must first of all comply strictly with the provisions of the Tehran Agreement of 17 September 1994 on a cease-fire and the cessation of other hostile acts. As this is an essential prerequisite for the continuation of the talks, my delegation believes that the parties should not limit the extension of the cease-fire agreement to a short period of time, but rather extend it as long as may be necessary while negotiations between the parties are under way, as was proposed before by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and accepted by the Government of Tajikistan only. My delegation, therefore, while urging the Tajik parties to respect effectively the obligations stemming from the Tehran Agreement and to cease hostilities immediately, wishes to appeal to them to

extend the cease-fire agreement for the entire duration of the talks.

As concerns the activities of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), my delegation regrets that military observers continue to be harassed, that the parties are limiting their freedom of movement and that, owing to a lack of security, the activities of the Joint Commission have been suspended. We hope that the Tajik opposition will accept the security guarantees offered by the Government of Tajikistan so that the work of the Joint Commission may resume soon.

My delegation believes that despite the obstacles that UNMOT has faced in carrying out its mission, its presence contributes to the stabilization of Tajikistan through its liaison activities with the Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Russian border forces and the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and continues to facilitate humanitarian assistance. We shall therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Council, which extends UNMOT's mandate for six months.

Bearing in mind operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, we hope that the Tajik parties will effectively demonstrate a commitment to peace, democracy and national reconciliation and that they will soon be able to achieve an overall political settlement to the conflict.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Honduras for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Queta (Guinea-Bissau) (*interpretation from French*): As this is the first time that my delegation has spoken at a formal meeting under your presidency, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the leadership of the Security Council.

We are convinced that given your skills and experience, our work will be crowned with success. We also wish to pay tribute to your predecessor, Ambassador Qin Huasun of China, and to his delegation, for his effective guidance of our work during the month of May.

The situation in Tajikistan remains tense because the parties to the conflict are not honouring the obligations to which they committed themselves under the Tehran cease-fire agreement. In our view, no effort can succeed without good faith on the part of the Tajik parties. Solving the problems of that country depends on the parties' determination to resolve their differences through a political dialogue on national reconciliation.

In that context, our delegation is encouraged to learn that the Tajik Government and the United Tajik Opposition have stated their conviction that the conflict in their country cannot be settled by military means. We take note also that the Tajik parties are prepared to resume talks and have accepted an unconditional three-month extension of the cease-fire agreement. We call upon the parties to maintain the cease-fire for the entire duration of the inter-Tajik talks, because we believe that this would be an important element in creating a favourable climate for the overall political dialogue towards national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy in that country.

My Government notes with deep concern the deterioration of the situation in Tajikistan, as recorded in the reports of the Secretary-General. My delegation considers that the Tajik parties themselves bear the primary responsibility for their differences. We call upon the parties to enable the Joint Commission to resume its activities without delay; in that connection, we encourage the Government of Tajikistan to provide the necessary security guarantees to the opposition members of the Joint Commission.

Guinea-Bissau attaches particular importance to the United Nations role in restoring peace to Tajikistan. We therefore regret the restrictions the Tajik parties have imposed on the movements of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). It is our view that the parties' cooperation with UNMOT and with other international organizations operating in Tajikistan is a precondition for humanitarian activities there.

I wish in conclusion to express my delegation's satisfaction at the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General, the Commonwealth of Independent States and all others who are contributing to the quest for peace in Tajikistan. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Gerd Merrem as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Tajikistan, and we wish him every success in his difficult task.

Guinea-Bissau will vote in favour of the draft resolution before the Council in the hope that it will shed a glimmer of hope upon the impasse faced by the process of national reconciliation in Tajikistan.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Guinea-Bissau for the kind words he addressed to me.

Mr. Wang Xuexian (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the representative of Tajikistan to the Security Council Chamber today. I listened to his statement attentively; it should be a positive element in the Council's deliberations on Tajikistan.

The Tajik parties recently agreed on a further three-month extension of the cease-fire agreement in order to create a climate conducive to the prompt resumption of political negotiations. We note that the two parties concerned are making preparations for the next round of political negotiations; the Chinese delegation welcomes this.

We reiterate that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Tajikistan should be respected. The basic approach to settling the question of Tajikistan is for the parties concerned to resolve their differences through peaceful negotiations and to achieve national reconciliation. As a neighbour of Tajikistan, we sincerely hope that Tajikistan will achieve peace, stability and the well-being of its people.

We support the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives to promote a comprehensive political settlement of the Tajik question. In carrying out its mission, the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) has played and will continue to play a positive role. We hope that the two parties concerned will cooperate closely with UNMOT and ensure the security of its personnel so that it can carry out its tasks undisturbed.

In his report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General recommends that in the present circumstances UNMOT should be maintained. We endorse that recommendation and will vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

It is human nature to enjoy listening to pleasant words, and Ambassador Qin Huasun is no exception to this. Hence, I shall certainly convey to Ambassador Qin all the kind and pleasant words addressed to him today.

Mr. Larraín (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish at the outset to welcome the representative of Tajikistan to the Security Council Chamber.

Six months ago, by resolution 1030 (1995), the Security Council agreed to extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and requested the Secretary-General to report to it every three months on the progress towards a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict. We are grateful to the Secretary-General for his three-monthly reports pursuant to that resolution, the latest of which (S/1996/412) has been carefully considered by the Security Council, and has formed the basis of the draft resolution before us today.

My delegation cannot conceal its frustration at the information not merely that there has been no progress during this period but that the situation in Tajikistan continues to be very tense and has actually deteriorated seriously in some regions. Moreover, hostile acts have impeded the pursuit of political negotiations and have led to the virtual stagnation of the peace process.

We wish also to state our special concern at and firm rejection of the continued violation of the 1994 cease-fire agreement and the failure to put in place the conditions necessary to sustain the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, such as progress in the process of national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy, as the Security Council has repeatedly requested.

My delegation has often stated its firm condemnation of harassment and restrictions on the freedom of movement of United Nations peace missions. We wish therefore to indicate our particular concern at the facts in this case and to remind the parties that the security of the civilian and military personnel of the Mission in Tajikistan must be rigorously guaranteed.

My delegation is also concerned at the critical humanitarian situation resulting from the conflict; we therefore support and express our special gratitude for the economic and social activities carried out by the United Nations in the field, which are directly helping those most harshly affected. Hence, we affirm that the international community must continue to devote its attention to the continuing emergency situation, which is accompanied by massive unemployment, poverty and starvation, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his most recent report.

Furthermore, in the context of our concern for the humanitarian situation, my delegation emphasizes the importance it attaches to the appeal made in the draft

resolution to the Tajik parties to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in order to facilitate the exchange of prisoners and detainees between the opposition and the Government.

Despite the sombre picture in Tajikistan, we see as a positive sign the conviction expressed by the parties that the only way to resolve the Tajik conflict is through political dialogue. We therefore firmly appeal to the authorities of the Government and of the opposition to translate their constructive position into deeds, and we therefore urge them both to resume political negotiations without delay, to undertake to implement the cease-fire agreement and to renew it indefinitely.

We believe that the Council should receive without further delay tangible signals from the parties of their intention to move forward in the peace process. Such an attitude would be consistent with the desire that has often been expressed, and is now being ratified, by the Security Council, to continue to lend its cooperation and support in order to resolve this conflict.

Accordingly, my delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution, which extends for a new period of six months the Mission in Tajikistan.

In conclusion, we wish to express our firm support and appreciation to the Special Representative, Mr. Gerd Merrem, as well as to all the military and civilian personnel of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan, who are carrying out their tasks in such difficult circumstances.

Mr. Wisnumurti (Indonesia): Allow me to begin by extending my delegation's congratulations to you, Sir, upon your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of June. We are convinced that with your diplomatic skill and vast experience you will guide the Council effectively. My delegation pledges its full cooperation to you and to your delegation.

We would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Qin Huasun of China for his excellent leadership in presiding over the work of the Council last month.

My delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his insightful report on the situation in Tajikistan, as contained in document S/1996/412. The continued fighting, the degradation of the humanitarian condition of the civilian population and the breakdown of the Ashgabat talks, as reported by the Secretary-General, are indeed alarming. We call upon all parties to halt the fighting immediately, in particular in Tavildara, and to permit the civilian population to return in peace and safety to their homes. We therefore welcome the statements by President Rakhmonov and Mr. Nuri accepting an extension of the cease-fire agreement. The news that the parties are in the process of agreeing to resume the inter-Tajik talks early in July is also encouraging. We are pleased to note that the rest of the situation in the country remains generally calm, although we take note of the potentially volatile situation in Leninabad after the occurrence of mass protests and the pursuant government intervention.

We welcome the initiative of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gerd Merrem, during his recent mission to the region, and we hope that it will soon bear fruit by bringing the parties together at the negotiating table.

In recent declarations, the Tajik Government and the United Tajik Opposition have agreed that only a political resolution to this conflict will bring about lasting peace and stability in Tajikistan. We deeply regret the restrictions on the freedom of movement imposed by the parties on the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). While we welcome the recent assurances of President Rakhmonov that the restrictions will be lifted, we are concerned that thus far there have been no tangible acts to that effect. We call upon all parties to cooperate with UNMOT.

In the light of the situation prevailing in Tajikistan, it is evident that the role of UNMOT remains important. We take note of the fact that the Government of Tajikistan has stressed the importance of UNMOT's continuing presence in the country. For these reasons, my delegation supports the extension of the mandate of UNMOT for another six months, as proposed by the Secretary-General, and will vote in favour of the draft resolution now before us.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to pay tribute to Mr. Darko Silovic, who is now leaving the post of Head of Mission of UNMOT, for a job well done. We would also like to thank Brigadier-General Hasan Abaza and the personnel of UNMOT for their untiring efforts in dangerous and fairly trying circumstances. Finally, we would like to welcome Mr. Gerd Merrem, in his twin roles as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and as the Head of Mission of UNMOT.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Indonesia for his kind words addressed to me.

I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1996/430.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Botswana, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1061 (1996).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mrs. Albright (United States of America): The United States welcomes the candid and detailed report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Tajikistan and supports the Secretary-General's recommendation that the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) be extended for another six months. In doing so, though, we would like to underline our serious concern about the deterioration of the military situation in Tajikistan and the continued lack of progress in the United Nations-mediated inter-Tajik talks.

As the Secretary-General notes in his report, Tajik Government and opposition forces are now engaged in some of the most serious fighting in the country since the end of the civil war in 1992. The two sides continue to profess their commitment to the standing cease-fire but, in practice, have reinforced their troops, conducted offensives and counter-offensives and shown little inclination to end this dangerous spiral. There have also been reports that areas of northern Afghanistan have been bombed or shelled in recent months, apparently in connection with the Tajik conflict. We urge, in the strongest terms, both sides to end the fighting now and abide strictly by the terms of the cease-fire.

The lack of progress in the peace talks is also a serious problem. The last two sessions of the talks appear to have made little headway towards a resolution of the conflict, despite the best efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy, Mr. Píriz-Ballón. We are dismayed by the seeming inability of the two sides thus far to agree even on confidence-building measures, such as prisoner exchanges.

One key element towards national reconciliation would be resumption of the operations of the Joint Commission for monitoring the cease-fire accord. We support the resolution's call on the United Tajik Opposition to accept the written security guarantees recently put forward by the Government. At the same time, we urge the Government to intensify its investigation into the 24 February kidnapping of the opposition Co-Chairman of the Joint Commission, who is still missing.

The two sides must also abide by their commitment to allow UNMOT observers freedom of movement and unfettered access to areas where cease-fire violations may have occurred. The Secretary-General reports that UNMOT's activities have been severely impeded by both sides. This would appear to call into question the parties' commitment to UNMOT's mission.

We welcome the new Special Representative, Mr. Merrem, and commend his active efforts to get the next round of talks under way as soon as possible. We regret that the Government was unable to accept Mr. Merrem's invitation to begin the talks on 17 June. We understand that the talks could occur in the first part of July, and urge the Tajik parties not to let this date slip any further.

Finally, I want to underline my Government's strong endorsement of the passage in this resolution calling for a review of UNMOT's future in Tajikistan should prospects for the peace process not improve during the mandate period. UNMOT's presence in Tajikistan is a concrete demonstration of the international community's commitment to helping the Tajik parties achieve peace and national reconciliation. However, UNMOT can be truly effective only if the parties themselves recommit themselves to these objectives.

Mr. Matuszewski (Poland): May I begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of June. Let me assure you of the full cooperation and support of the Polish delegation. I should also like to pay tribute to Ambassador Qin of China for the excellent manner in

which he presided over the Council in the month of May. Our thanks also go to all members of his delegation.

The Polish delegation voted in favour of the resolution that the Security Council has just adopted. We are convinced that the continuing presence of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) in Tajikistan will contribute to the stabilization of that country and assist the parties in their attempts peacefully to resolve the conflict.

Our approach to the extension of the mandate of UNMOT is also based on some encouraging, although still weak and inconsistent, signals coming from Tajikistan. I refer to the renewed commitment of the leaders of both parties to a political settlement of the conflict. In this context, we welcome the apparent readiness of the Government and the opposition to resume the inter-Tajik talks. The decision of the Government and the opposition to extend the cease-fire also influenced our position on the resolution, although the parties have yet to prove their sincerity in this respect.

This prompts me to make a couple of other remarks. While discussing the proposal of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of UNMOT, the members of the Security Council made a number of grim observations concerning current developments in Tajikistan. Some of these developments are particularly disturbing. Large-scale ongoing fighting has been causing enormous human suffering, loss of life and destruction. According to the Secretary-General, the present situation in Tajikistan is at its worst since the end of the civil war of 1992.

The parties to the conflict seem to be untouched by the appeals and requests of the Security Council contained in the two presidential statements on Tajikistan, issued respectively in March and May this year. This is true, for instance, of the parties' dealing with UNMOT, resulting in the restriction of movement of the Mission's personnel and in the lack of adequate security and safety conditions. We expect this situation to improve immediately.

In conclusion, let me pay tribute to the Secretary-General for his efforts in assisting the parties on their difficult way towards peace and reconciliation. May I also thank the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gerd Merrem, for what he has achieved since his recent appointment and assure him of our support in his further endeavours. Last, but not least, I would like to express our gratitude to UNMOT personnel and their partners from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Collective Peace-keeping Forces.

These are the comments which the Polish delegation had to make in addition to the statement delivered by the delegation of Italy on behalf of the Presidency of the European Union, with which my delegation associated itself.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Poland for his kind words addressed to me.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Egypt.

At the outset, the delegation of Egypt wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report of 7 June. Our gratitude also goes to the former Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, who carried out his tasks in an excellent manner.

My delegation supported the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), for the following reasons.

First, the Egyptian Government is concerned over the great deterioration of the situation in Tajikistan. My Government is convinced of the urgent need for the parties to abide sincerely and in good faith by the commitments they have undertaken, and in particular of the need for the prompt resumption, without any further delay, of the inter-Tajik talks in order to reach a peaceful settlement as soon as possible.

Secondly, all hostilities must cease immediately and all parties must fully comply with the Tehran Agreement on a Temporary Cease-fire and all other commitments they have undertaken, in particular the extension of the cease-fire throughout the inter-Tajik talks. These actions will facilitate the achievement of a peaceful settlement and the establishment of a climate of mutual trust between the parties.

Thirdly, despite the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of UNMOT personnel and the threats to their safety, the Mission's ongoing implementation of its tasks is essential to creating an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the talks and the efforts to find a peaceful settlement. In this regard, we reaffirm the need for both parties to ensure the

freedom of movement of and the highest degree of security for the Mission's personnel.

Having supported the resolution on the extension of UNMOT's mandate, my delegation wishes to reiterate the importance of a thorough and comprehensive review of the situation when the Mission's new mandate expires, and in particular of an appraisal of the parties' serious commitment to achieving a peaceful settlement.

In conclusion, the delegation of Egypt wishes to thank Mr. Darko Silovic, former Head of Mission of UNMOT, for his remarkable efforts. We also welcome Mr. Gerd Merrem, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and wish him every success in his tasks.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.3674

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3674th Meeting

Friday, 14 June 1996, 5.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Elaraby	(Egypt)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Nkgowe
	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	France	Mr. Ladsous
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Queta
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wisnumurti
	Italy	Mr. Fulci
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gorelik
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mrs. Albright

Agenda

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

96-85799 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 5.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation between Iraq and Kuwait

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns the failure of Iraq to comply with its resolution 1060 (1996) of 12 June 1996 by refusing access to sites designated by the Special Commission on 13 June 1996. Coming after the denial of access on 11 and 12 June 1996, this new dimension of non-compliance marks a serious step backwards in Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission. The Council considers that these events constitute a clear and flagrant violation of its resolutions 687 (1991), 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

"The Security Council reiterates its full support for the Special Commission in the conduct of its inspections and the other tasks entrusted to it by the Council. The Council rejects attempts by Iraq to impose conditions on the conduct of inspections by the Special Commission.

"The Security Council demands once again that Iraq comply with the relevant resolutions of the Council and, in particular, allow the inspection teams of the Special Commission immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect.

"The Security Council requests the Chairman of the Special Commission to visit Baghdad as soon as possible with a view to securing immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to all sites which the Special Commission wishes to inspect, and to engage in a forward-looking dialogue on other issues under the Commission's mandate. It further requests the Chairman to report immediately afterwards on the results of his visit and on the impact of Iraqi policies on the mandate and work of the Special Commission."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/28.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3675

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3675th Meeting

Friday, 28 June 1996, 12.55 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Elaraby	(Egypt)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Legwaila
	Chile	Mr. Eguiguren
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	France	Mr. Thiebaud
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Mendes
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wibisono
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Gatilov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (S/1996/411 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/1996/467)

96-85870 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (S/1996/411 and Corr.1 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/1996/467)

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, document S/1996/411 and Corr.1 and Add.1, and the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus, document S/1996/467.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1996/477, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution (S/1996/477) before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Botswana, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President *(interpretation from Arabic)*: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1062 (1996).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3676

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3676th Meeting

Friday, 28 June 1996, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Elaraby	(Egypt)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Legwaila
	Chile	Mr. Larraín
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	France	Mr. Dejammet
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Queta
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wibisono
	Italy	Mr. Fulci
	Poland	Mr. Włosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Weston
	United States of America	Mrs. Albright

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (S/1996/416 and Add.1/Rev.1)

96-85876 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (S/1996/416 and Add.1/Rev.1)

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Canada and Haiti in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In accordance with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the discussion without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Lelong (Haiti) took a seat at the Council table; Mr. Fowler (Canada) took the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Haiti, document S/1996/416 and addendum 1/revision 1.

Members of the Council also have before them document S/1996/478, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to the following other documents: S/1996/431, letter dated 10 June 1996 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council; and S/1996/432, letter dated 12 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

Mr. Fulci (Italy): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The most important consideration in the Secretary-General's recent report on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), was the continued commitment and determination of President Préval and his Government to consolidate democratic institutions and to create the conditions for sustainable development of the country.

Four months ago, after the democratic election of a new President and the peaceful transfer of power from President Aristide to President Préval, Security Council resolution 1048 (1996) made a positive assessment of the country's prospects for rebuilding an economy and a society that had been severely affected by the military dictatorship.

Today the Security Council will adopt a new resolution, which again shows the strong commitment and support of the international community to the consolidation of Haitian democracy and institutions. The spirit in which this resolution has been drafted is to contribute to the completion of a process that began with such difficulty.

The European Union completely shares this commitment and this goal, in the spirit of friendship that pervades our relations with Haiti. In fact, the European Union has repeatedly emphasized the need for the Haitian situation to evolve in such a way as to assure stability, security and peaceful coexistence for all members of Haitian society, fostering economic growth and allowing the country to reap the benefits of the efforts made by the international community.

This is why we have supported the continuation of the United Nations operation in the country. The creation of this new support mission reflects, in our opinion, the need for continued assistance by all of us. In particular, we believe that the completion of the process of creating a new Haitian police force, committed to the rule of law and respect for human rights, is one of the key issues facing the country. Every other aspect of Haiti's future is related to the question of internal security.

The necessary reforms and full economic recovery can work only if the domestic climate is conducive to new investments. It is essential, therefore, that the elections scheduled for the local assemblies and the Senate elections next November take place in a secure environment.

We wish to conclude by expressing our satisfaction at the particular spirit of cooperation that has characterized the work on this draft resolution. We wish to express our thanks to all those who demonstrated good will in making a solution possible. It allowed us to reach an important and significant result, one that will greatly benefit Haiti, its people and the path it has chosen towards democracy. We also want especially to thank the United States and Canada for the concrete contribution they are making to the success of this operation.

The following countries associated with the Union align themselves with this statement: Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): The next speaker is the representative of Canada. I invite him to take a seat at the Council table and to make his statement.

Mr. Fowler (Canada) (*interpretation from French*): Since this is my first opportunity this month to address you, Mr. President, allow me first to congratulate you on your outstanding conduct of the Council's deliberations. The delegation of Canada has greatly appreciated your effective guidance of the Council's work this month.

I also wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Representative of China, Ambassador Qin Huasun, and his delegation on the excellent manner in which they led the work of the Council in May.

Canada is highly pleased by the Council's consideration today of the draft resolution before it on the situation in Haiti. We are happy to note that all Council members remain committed to assisting the Haitian people in its efforts to consolidate democracy and to rebuild the economy of Haiti.

By its decision to establish the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), the Council will clearly demonstrate the international community's determination to pursue its commitment to consolidating democracy in Haiti. The United Nations presence in Haiti has been an essential complement to the Haitian people's efforts to build a democratic, safe and fair society. It is therefore very encouraging to see the Council today, on behalf of the United Nations, proving that it is determined to continue these efforts.

Before going into greater detail on the role of UNSMIH, I cannot fail to recognize the contribution of the men and women who participated in the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and helped it to achieve the goals that we established for its work in Haiti. Their presence made it possible to establish a stable environment throughout the country. It allowed the training of thousands of Haitian police officers to go forward. It also provided the Haitian people with the opportunity to begin the social and economic reconstruction of their country. They made an important contribution, and I wish to convey the sincerest thanks of the Canadian Government to Special Representatives Brahimi and Ter Horst, to the police and military force commanders and to the soldiers and police officers of UNMIH for a job well done.

(*spoke in English*)

The end of UNMIH signals that a further important step forward has been taken by the Government and the people of Haiti. In recognition of this progress, the Council will now establish a new Mission, one which is significantly reduced in size and to which the Council has given a new, leaner mandate. As the Haitian National Police (HNP) develops its policing role and becomes more effective, different and more specific tasks are required of the United Nations Mission supporting it. UNSMIH's mandate reflects this trend.

It is clear that a United Nations mission is still required. President Préval made clear in his request to the Secretary-General earlier this month that the Government and the people of Haiti were counting on assistance provided by the United Nations over the coming months to strengthen Haiti's National Police force. He said very clearly that the newly established HNP was not yet in a position to assume sole responsibility for the maintenance of order and security in his country. Haiti's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fritz Longchamp, reiterated this view when the Friends met with him yesterday.

Fear continues to reign in some parts of Haiti, and public order is maintained only with difficulty. Police officers, newly graduated and deployed throughout the country, are not yet able to control fully outbreaks of violence nor, in all cases, to provide the necessary guidance to beleaguered citizens. Some incidents in the past few months indicate a disturbing trend of violence specifically directed against Haitian National Police officers; indeed, some acts of violence have been committed by young, inexperienced officers themselves. Clearly, an international presence is still required to

maintain a climate of stability and to provide moral and material support to Haiti's fledgling police force.

UNSMIH will maintain UNMIH's civilian police (CIVPOL) component at a level of 300 personnel, 100 of these officers being from Canada. With police training as one of the main functions of the United Nations Mission, we welcome the fact that the Security Council will maintain this vitally important CIVPOL commitment.

UNSMIH will also include a small United Nations military force to be deployed in Port-au-Prince only. In Canada's view — a view which was shared by other troop contributors — it was essential that the United Nations maintain a military presence in Haiti. Without this military presence, the civilian police officers would not have been able to continue to work as they have, unarmed and often located in small numbers in remote and inaccessible rural communities. An effective military back-up is indispensable in providing logistical support for CIVPOL and in serving as a deterrent to violence against its officers.

The report of the Secretary-General, based upon the United Nations assessments of the situation in the field, suggests that a military force of at least 1,200 military personnel is required to perform this function at a level of risk acceptable to all involved. In fact, our own careful calculations lead us to believe that a force of 1,300, rather than 1,200, will be required to carry out the mandate as laid out in the Secretary-General's report. We believe that a smaller force could imperil both military and civilian police personnel and would undercut the successes achieved by UNMIH.

A force of this size was, however, larger than what the Security Council was prepared to authorize for this Mission. As a result, following on our decision in February and on our significant continuing commitment to the people of Haiti, Canada will continue to provide on a voluntary basis many of the additional troops that will be required to ensure that a United Nations force of sufficient size to fulfil the mandate is deployed in Haiti. Canadian soldiers will thus form a majority of the military forces to be deployed in Haiti over the next five months.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to the courage and tenacity of the Haitian people in working to achieve stability, democracy and the rule of law in their country. Canada is proud to be part of the United Nations mission which is assisting them in achieving that goal. We have all invested a great deal in bringing hope and democracy to Haiti.

The promise of a better life for the people of Haiti is, however, far from fulfilled. Yet the predators have been kept at bay and the freely chosen Government in Port-au-Prince is well launched in its efforts to improve the circumstances of its people.

This new mandate will give five more months in which to allow the roots of freedom and democracy to take hold. Canada remains committed to the long-term development of Haiti. Haiti's needs remain considerable, and we urge other countries, agencies and institutions to join us in providing generous and timely assistance to the Haitian Government and the Haitian people, to build a viable and fully functioning economy. Without this, stability and security will remain elusive.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Canada for the kind words he addressed to me.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to vote on the draft resolution in document S/1996/478. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Larraín (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I wish first of all to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the situation in Haiti; we are grateful too for all the endeavours of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and of the entire team of the United Nations Mission in that country.

This is a very special occasion: the culmination of an important phase in the process of restoring democracy to a brother country with a tragic political history. It is also the conclusion of one of the most successful missions in the history of United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Security Council and the entire Organization should draw satisfaction from both these facts.

Moreover, we hail the Council's reaffirmation of its solidarity with the people of Haiti through the establishment of the new United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH). We wish on behalf of the Government of Chile to express our sincere gratitude to the delegations of Canada, China, the Russian Federation

and the United States, and to all others that have made it possible to continue the task of political stabilization in Haiti.

Under the United Nations Charter, the main purpose of the Organization is the maintenance of international peace and security. Over the past 50 years, the United Nations, in carrying out that mandate, has gained broad experience in neutralizing threats to peace arising from conflicts between States. Yet in the current decade, the Security Council has commenced a new approach to its functions by attempting to control threats to peace arising from problems within States, not between them.

With the fundamental political changes that took place at the end of the 1980s, the internal problems of various countries have been attracting international attention; this has led the Council to adopt measures in that connection. The viewpoint from which these conflicts is seen has changed, and the continuation or worsening of such conflicts has given rise to concern about avoiding the worldwide repercussions they could have.

The Security Council has thus found it necessary to assess these situations and involve itself in the internal affairs of States at the request of the authorities of the States concerned. Operations have taken place that constitute true exceptions to the principle of non-intervention. The conflicts in Cambodia, El Salvador and Georgia have characteristics that place them in a category distinct from that of conventional international conflicts. Similarly, various interventions in Africa lack the thousands of years of history and diplomatic practice that apply to the control of traditional threats to peace.

It was only to be expected that the new situation facing the Security Council, despite the Council's wealth of experience and long tradition in the handling of international conflicts, poses new challenges to its members; these must be met through the creation of the tools needed to address these new needs. Hence, in-depth discussion is required in the general context of the future role of the Security Council and the United Nations in the maintenance of comprehensive peace.

The case of Haiti is an example of a situation demanding a subjective assessment of the country's internal problems that require the support of the international community. It is therefore legitimate that there should be varying assessments of the new mandate's characteristics, even though support *per se* has never been in question. This was an evaluation that also covered various sensitive aspects of the matter, such as a Government's capacity to maintain political stability and civic peace, both areas linked directly to the exercise of sovereignty.

I wish in conclusion to stress that we favour the Council beginning a general discussion of this matter, with a view to adapting its procedures to the new challenges it faces.

Mr. Lavrov (Russian Federation) (*interpretation from Russian*): The Russian Federation is pleased to note the success with which the work of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) will conclude on 30 June. The Mission has carried out with honour the tasks entrusted to it by the Security Council in resolution 940 (1994). New democratic institutions have been established in the country, and broadly speaking the Haitian National Police has been trained and is deployed.

We are grateful to the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and to his successor, Mr. Enrique ter Horst, as well as to the commanders of the military and civilian components of UNMIH, for their effective work. We pay tribute to all the personnel of the Mission, which included our compatriots, for their tireless efforts in support of the consolidation of democracy in Haiti.

It is no secret that Russia had misgivings about the need for a new operation, particularly with respect to the retention of a military component, at a time when, on the whole, the situation in Haiti is stable and secure, and when there is no threat of organized violence to destabilize that situation.

But taking into consideration the appeal of the President of Haiti, His Excellency Mr. René Préval, the recommendation of the Secretary-General, and the position of the Organization of American States and the group of Friends of Haiti, we have joined other members of the Security Council in consenting to the establishment of the new United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) for a period of five months, to provide underpinning for the Haitian National Police in its formative stages.

This was possible because the sponsors of the draft resolution took into account proposals made by Russia and China, which were along the same lines. Specifically, the final text of the draft resolution includes a substantial reduction of the military component and the financing of a significant portion of it through voluntary

contributions and by troop contributors. We note the contribution of Canada and the United States to the resolution of the financial aspect of this problem.

On our initiative, the draft also emphasizes the economic rehabilitation and reconstruction of Haiti. We are convinced that only a speedy solution to Haiti's economic difficulties, as well as providing it with sustainable development, will make it possible to establish a truly firm foundation for the support of stability and the further consolidation of democracy in that country.

With regard to outside support for the reforms of the development programmes, the activation and coordination of the efforts of the specialized agencies of the United Nations, as well as the international financial institutions and donor States, will play a decisive role. Of particular importance will be their capacity to show good will and to take further steps, speedily, to reach agreements with the Government of Haiti that will remove barriers to the provision of the promised aid.

It is important that the draft resolution seeks to continue, and to further step up, the efforts of the Organization of American States to provide assistance in resolving Haiti's problems. Work on the draft resolution showed that a constructive approach, an equal reflection of the positions and interests of us all, made it possible for Council members to find generally acceptable solutions to questions of the development of new forms and methods of peace-keeping in United Nations activities.

Mr. Wang Xuexian (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Chinese Government has always attached importance to, and supported, the peace process in Haiti and the positive efforts made by the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, the Organization of American States and the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) in restoring peace and stability in Haiti. We are pleased to note that substantive progress has been made in the Haitian peace process, thanks to the help of the United Nations and the international community. The task of creating a National Police force in Haiti has been completed. The security situation in Haiti has also improved markedly. At present, there are no indications that the Government of Haiti is faced with any organized threat, nor does the situation in Haiti pose any threat to international peace and security. Therefore, UNMIH has fulfilled its mandate in Haiti and will successfully conclude its mission. The Chinese delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank UNMIH for its contribution.

In view of this situation, we have reservations about the continued presence of United Nations military personnel in Haiti. However, having carefully studied the recommendation of the Secretary-General on the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), and having taken fully into account the urgent requests of the Haitian Government and the desires of the Latin American countries, the Chinese Government has made the utmost effort, and we agree in principle to the establishment of UNSMIH. We have noted with satisfaction that, thanks to the joint efforts of the parties concerned, after friendly consultations, a consensus has finally been reached on the text of the draft resolution. The Chinese side appreciates the cooperative attitude displayed by all parties. Therefore, the Chinese delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution.

The Haitian people have made unremitting efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability and have made remarkable progress. The primary task now facing Haiti is rehabilitation and reconstruction. We urge the international community, relevant United Nations bodies and international financial institutions to take urgent and effective measures to contribute to the economic development of Haiti.

The Haitian people are industrious and brave, and are masters of their own destiny. The maintenance of a secure environment and economic development depend ultimately solely on the Haitian people themselves, and the help of the international community can only play a supplementary role. We hope that the Haitian Government will seize the favourable opportunity of the presence of UNSMIH to further consolidate the hard-won peace and intensify the professionalization of the police, thus creating a favourable environment in which the Haitian people can live and work in peace and contentment. We sincerely hope that the Haitian people will start leading a peaceful, tranquil and happy life at an early dat

Sir John Weston (United Kingdom): The establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) in the draft resolution we are about to adopt confirms this Council's support for the efforts of the Haitian people to consolidate their hard-won democracy.

The British Government is pleased that UNSMIH will continue the valuable work of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) in providing the necessary climate for continuing peace and stability. We are

particularly grateful to those who have contributed troops and civilian personnel to UNMIH, and to those who intend to continue their support for UNSMIH. We welcome the fact that it has been possible to reduce the force level substantially.

The key task facing the Support Mission will be the continuation of efforts to establish an effective National Police force. While good progress has been made, the job is not yet done. The role of the United Nations civilian police will be crucial, and we encourage the international community to continue to support their efforts. We commend the Haitian Government's commitment to the maintenance of peace and law and order. We must all now work with them to ensure that governmental and judicial institutions are strengthened to give Haiti the necessary foundations for a stable and lasting democracy.

Haiti's road to democracy has been long and arduous. The international community and this Council can be proud of their support for the efforts of the Haitian people. Haiti is rightly described as a success story for the United Nations. But we must not be complacent. We need to ensure that the task is completed. The United Kingdom will continue its effort and support for that task.

Mr. Martínez Blanco (Honduras) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Since elections were held in Haiti at the end of last year, the Haitian Government has continued its efforts to consolidate democratic rule and to resolve the various economic, social and institutional problems that impede the country's development. Through the formulation of economic policies and strategies and institutional reforms, the Government is attempting to respond to the demands of a people anxious to improve their living conditions.

However, these measures are being adopted in an atmosphere in which security is still relative, owing to increasing crime and the widespread feeling among the civilian population that once the presence of the United Nations comes to an end in that country, groups or persons linked to the former de facto regime will be able to undertake destabilizing acts against the democratically elected Government.

There is no doubt that economic recovery and the consolidation of democratic institutions in Haiti require an atmosphere of security and trust. The Government of President Préval has quite justifiably expressed its concern in that respect, as well as its desire for the continuation of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) to ensure stability and security while the necessary police officers are trained.

Honduras believes that the international community must continue to contribute to the consolidation of the progress achieved by the Haitian people following the restoration of democracy. Haiti needs a secure and stable environment that allows the Government to carry out the economic, institutional and judicial reforms it has proposed, that makes it possible for the upcoming local elections to go smoothly and that makes the country more attractive for domestic and foreign investment.

The creation of these conditions is up to the institution responsible for maintaining order and security in Haiti: the Haitian National Police. However, that institution has serious limitations preventing it from fully carrying out its functions: it lacks competent high-ranking officers, coordination, training and equipment. In such a situation it is not advisable to withdraw the military and police personnel provided by the United Nations to support the Haitian National Police. On the contrary: it is necessary to continue that assistance so that Haiti can have a professional police force that is of appropriate size and is completely in step with the objectives of consolidating democracy and revitalizing the judicial system.

The Haitian Government has already decided to establish a professional police force that promotes the rule of law and respect for human rights in Haiti. To that end, there is a programme of activities aimed at promoting the force's development in terms of training, infrastructure, logistics, management and operations. Honduras believes that the international community must help the people and the Government of Haiti achieve that objective, and therefore resolutely supports the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti with the mandate and composition set out in the draft resolution the Council is about to adopt, and in favour of which my delegation will vote.

My delegation is aware that Haiti is in difficult economic straits, with low growth and high unemployment. The Haitian Government will also face many social problems, solutions for which must be found in order not to imperil the achievements already made. We believe that the efforts of President Préval and his Government to consolidate democracy, ensure strict respect for human rights and bring about Haiti's development must be firmly supported by the international community. In this regard, we acknowledge

the efforts of the United Nations system to speed up Haiti's economic growth, protect its environment and strengthen its national institutions. In addition, we urge the international financial institutions to increase their aid to Haiti so that it can solve its socio-economic problems and thus ensure the existence of the state of law and the politics of national reconciliation that began with the return to constitutional order.

Finally, we wish to express our appreciation to the Governments of the United States and Canada for the voluntary contributions they have pledged to this operation for peace.

Mr. Park (Republic of Korea): Allow me first to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the outstanding leadership and efficiency with which you have directed the work of the Council during the month of June.

My delegation would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, his Special Representative, Mr. ter Horst, and the Friends of Haiti for their enduring efforts to bring about lasting peace and security in Haiti. With the successful conclusion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), we would also like to take this opportunity to express our special thanks to the staff of UNMIH and the countries contributing troops to it for their outstanding achievement in helping consolidate Haiti's democracy.

Since the historic transfer of power which took place last February, the Government and the people of Haiti have made considerable progress in their quest for democracy and stability under the leadership of President Préval. Unfortunately, however, despite the tremendous progress achieved to date, the overall security environment still remains unstable, as the Secretary-General's report indicates. The potential for instability that might be created by the premature departure of the United Nations is particularly worrisome in the light of the signs of growing popular discontent over the difficult economic situation.

Furthermore, the inability of the incipient Haitian National Police to maintain law and order on its own is a serious cause for concern. The fledgling police force is still faced with the same old problems and in need of sustained assistance from the international community before it becomes a fully functioning force.

We believe that in the longer term, the emphasis of the United Nations role in Haiti should be reoriented and the focus should shift from the current peace-keeping operations to enhanced socio-economic development activities. However, at a time when the nascent democracy is still quite frail and the National Police are not fully prepared to independently ensure the kind of stable and secure environment required for the consolidation of democracy and sustainable economic development, we believe that the security concern should remain a priority. It is in this context that we agree with the Secretary-General's view that complete withdrawal of the United Nations presence is inappropriate at this time.

The case before us represents a challenge from the perspective of United Nations peace-keeping operations as well. UNMIH was a model of success in combining a traditional peace-keeping operation with post-conflict peace-building efforts. We believe that a continued United Nations presence should contribute to a smooth transition from the peace-keeping to the peace-building stage. In this regard, we are pleased that the mandate of the new Mission is geared further towards the promotion of institution-building, national reconciliation and economic rehabilitation in Haiti.

We note with satisfaction that the difficult financial situation of the United Nations has been duly addressed in the draft resolution, through a substantial reduction in the troop strength of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) from the level recommended by the Secretary-General. In this connection, we welcome the willingness of the Governments of the United States and Canada to provide generous voluntary support to UNSMIH. My delegation has held the view that the assistance and commitment of the countries in the region are not only desirable but also indispensable for the activities of the United Nations. We are pleased that the cooperation of the Organization of American States with this world body in consolidating peace and democracy in Haiti has been duly taken note of in the draft resolution.

Finally, the current situation in Haiti, as in many other areas of conflict, demonstrates the crucial link between peace and development. As noted in the preamble of the draft resolution, long-term peace and stability cannot come to pass without progress in economic, social and institutional development. It is in this spirit that we strongly encourage the development activities which are being conducted by various agencies and the international financial institutions.

In closing, my delegation would like to stress once again that the people of Haiti bear the ultimate responsibility for their own destiny. We therefore applaud

the Government and the people of Haiti for their firm commitment to the rule of law, democracy and development.

We find the draft resolution before us encompasses all the core elements that we have just mentioned. We will therefore join the Council's consensus and vote in favor of the draft resolution, which we believe marks another milestone in Haiti's path to democracy and prosperity.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Eitel (Germany): At the end of your presidency, I take great pleasure in congratulating you, Sir, on the prudent leadership and wisdom with which you have conducted our work during the month of June.

Germany fully supports the statement made by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union. We also welcome the fact that a number of friendly countries have again associated themselves with the statement of the European Union.

The developments in Haiti since the return of President Aristide in 1994 and the results achieved by United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) so far are encouraging. Free and fair elections were held in 1995. For the first time in Haitian history, a peaceful transition from one democratically elected president to his democratically elected successor took place in February this year. The successful role of UNMIH in laying the foundations for a new start towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Haiti is beyond doubt. I am glad to say that UNMIH will probably be recognized as one more of the success stories of the United Nations.

We all acknowledge, however, that further steps are needed to stabilize the country, to consolidate democracy and to advance development in Haiti. This will be possible only in a peaceful and secure situation, and for the time being, the peace and security of the situation are still quite fragile. This requires a continued solid United Nations presence, especially in the form of policemen to train Haitian police and a back-up force. After all the international community has already invested in this field, we should not stop halfway. The new United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) will certainly help stabilize, in particular, security and *ordre public* — indispensable requirements for a normal life in Haiti.

Germany supports the Haitian and international efforts to overcome the crisis mainly by a broad development programme, oriented to the basic needs of the Haitian population. Besides a programme for structural adjustment, which it sponsors together with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, the German side is helping Haiti with projects to provide clean water, a more reliable supply of electricity, sanitation and rural development — projects aimed at making life more livable for the people of Haiti. Further projects have been discussed during the recent visit of President Préval to Germany.

One crucial condition for the successful outcome of any United Nations Mission is, as we all know, its enjoyment of the full support of all parties involved. This condition is fulfilled in the case of Haiti. President Préval of Haiti has explicitly requested the continued presence of a United Nations mission to Haiti. Furthermore, it may be recalled that the continued presence of a United Nations mission to Haiti has been recommended not only by the Secretary-General in his latest excellent report, but also by the Organization of American States during its recent session, held in Panama at the beginning of this month, and, last but not least, by the countries known as the Friends of Haiti. As a result, the new UNSMIH already has a solid basis of support from all parties concerned. This gives it a good chance for success.

I wish to conclude my remarks by expressing my appreciation to all Member States which have contributed to UNMIH, first and foremost those that have contributed troops or police officers. They have made possible the success reached so far. In this context, we acknowledge the special contributions by Canada and by the United States, in the past and for the future.

Finally, I wish to thank the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, as well as the civilian personnel, troops and civilian police officers who served in UNMIH, for their efforts in support of peace and democracy in Haiti. Our best wishes for luck and success go to the members of the new UNSMIH.

We shall vote in favour of the draft resolution.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Germany for his kind words addressed to me.

Mr. Queta (Guinea-Bissau) (*interpretation from French*): It seems that for the first time in its history

Haiti has democratic institutions. The United Nations has played a very important role in making it possible for Haitians to express peacefully their desire to establish a political regime that is a manifestation of the will of the people. The way that the elections of 7 February 1996 were conducted in the country is emblematic of that will.

My country believes that much progress has been made in Haiti, thanks to the assistance of the international community. However, the hardest tasks are still to come, including the training of a new police force capable of guaranteeing on its own the stable climate and the security necessary for the consolidation of democracy; the revitalization of the judicial system; and the needed coordination of the activities led by the United Nations bodies working for reconciliation and economic reconstruction in Haiti.

My country believes that a complete withdrawal of United Nations observers could jeopardize everything the Haitian people have achieved so far with the support and assistance of the international community.

Therefore, my delegation supports the continued presence of the United Nations in that country through the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) until 30 November 1996. We will therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution before us.

Allow me to thank through you, Mr. President, the Secretary-General for his devotion to the cause of the Haitian people. We also wish to pay tribute to all the countries, particularly the United States and Canada, and organizations that have been making efforts to assist in the consolidation of democracy in Haiti.

Mr. Wibisono (Indonesia): Let me begin by expressing the Indonesian delegation's appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and insightful report concerning the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). Our delegation is cognizant of the fact that the Mission has effectively assisted the Government of Haiti in ushering in a new era by maintaining a stable and secure environment, by permitting democratic elections and by contributing to the establishment of democratic institutions in Haiti. These accomplishments add to the list of success stories of the United Nations peace-keeping operations around the world. Hence, we would like to pay tribute to the men and women of UNMIH for their highly commendable dedication and work in contributing to Haiti's recent success.

Our delegation duly notes the termination of UNMIH's mandate at the end of June 1996, pursuant to resolution 1048 (1996). We fully recognize that at the present time there is no immediate threat to the new Haitian Government. However, we would like to underline that the continuation of Haiti's progress is contingent on the presence of a United Nations mission. This has been corroborated by the request of President René Préval to authorize a new multinational force to maintain public order and strengthen the Haitian National Police (HNP).

It is to the credit of UNMIH and the Government of Haiti that a new police force has been created and that a commitment to the rule of law has been established. The very presence of this force serves as a buffer, protecting the people of Haiti against the risk of militia operations. UNMIH's military component plays a fundamental role in assisting the Haitian authorities in their security tasks and in creating an efficient logistics system. It also protects key political figures who have enabled the establishment of a newly democratic Haiti. Moreover, UNMIH has supported the training of the HNP and the promotion of institutional development.

However, the task at hand is not yet complete. There is a lag in the professionalization of the Haitian National Police. More time and training are needed to raise the level of efficiency of its officers so that they may become guarantors against the return of a Haiti ruled by the militia to the detriment of the Haitian people as a whole. In this regard, my delegation is of the view that any response to developments in Haiti should include a proposal detailing the quality and size of the Haitian National Police and a time-frame in which it is to be fully operational.

The underlying currents in Haiti remain a source of concern. According to the report of the Secretary-General, there is a serious risk of civil unrest due to an increased demand for improved living conditions and the poor economic situation that still prevails. The growing fear is very real that the militia and members affiliated with Haiti's past Government may wish to capitalize on the potentially volatile social situation. Indonesia is of the view that, in order to build peace, we must address the sources of social and political tension, such as problems of employment, housing, education, health care, infrastructure and food supply. Efforts must be applied in all these areas if a country is not only to prosper but also to maintain itself as a viable nation. Furthermore, Haiti's economic performance and

the forthcoming elections for local assemblies and the Senate will need a stable and peaceful environment to proceed smoothly and fairly.

Considering the fact that Haiti is now at a critical juncture in its history, the international community, including members of the Security Council, must ensure that this chance is not lost. The Indonesian delegation considers the request of President René Préval to be reasonable, given the vacuum potentially created by UNMIH's departure, opening the door to insecurity that may destroy Haiti's nascent democratic institutions. In this context, my delegation would like to welcome the initiatives of the Organization of American States and, in particular, the contribution of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti, to promote the consolidation of peace and democracy in Haiti. My delegation strongly believes that regional support is crucial to the future of Haiti. Moreover, in the long run, we hope that a regional solution will play a major and significant role in replacing the United Nations presence.

We strongly feel that the Secretary-General's vision, reflected in his An Agenda for Peace, of transition from a peace-keeping operation to a peace-building operation fits into the Haitian context. Peace-building needs to be carried out to its fulfilment. It is clear that there is indeed a link between peace and development in Haiti. Although the people of Haiti themselves bear the ultimate responsibility for national reconciliation and the reconstruction of their country, the support of the international community is indispensable for long-term peace and stability in Haiti.

In view of Haiti's need for economic development, my delegation endorses the involvement of and projects launched by numerous United Nations agencies and international and financial institutions in order to construct a new and sound economic base. Responsible and resourceful economic policies focused on growth, control of inflation, job creation and privatization will establish the macroeconomic framework in which projects can thrive. In turn, economic progress will recreate the atmosphere for investment, the social stability and the Government commitment needed for Haiti's national well-being.

In the light of the fragile situation which prevails in Haiti, the Indonesian delegation supports the Secretary-General's recommendations for the establishment of a new Mission, called the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), as reflected in the draft resolution. Considering the financial crisis which the United Nations is presently facing, my delegation is of the view that UNSMIH's mandate should include a gradual reduction of both its military and civilian components; our delegation feels that once the situation finally stabilizes, only a small, symbolic United Nations presence will be necessary. This demonstrates that there is a correlation between the reduction in strength of the United Nations Mission and the improvement of the situation in Haiti. We believe that UNSMIH's limited mandate, with its military component, could provide the necessary back-up for the Haitian National Police and will prove adequate to meet the Haitian Government's request.

We are of the view that the international community's commitment is crucial in ensuring Haiti's stability and the rebuilding of the country. My delegation will therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution before us today.

Mr. Legwaila (Botswana): In this twilight of your presidency, Sir, I welcome the opportunity this meeting offers me to congratulate you, as this is the first time that I have spoken in an open meeting of the Security Council since you became its President. I therefore speak to celebrate your presidency and the manner in which you have acquitted yourself this month. I can assure that your name has gone into the records of the Security Council as representing one of the most successful presidencies, by far, during my country's membership of the Council over the past year and a half.

The date of 30 June 1996 marks the end of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). UNMIH is one of the few successful United Nations peace-keeping operations of recent years. The men and women of UNMIH — led so ably, first, by Ambassador Brahimi and, currently, by Ambassador Ter Horst — rightly deserve a pat on the back. They have done a marvelous job in helping to establish a secure and stable environment in Haiti in which democracy could thrive. And they brought the hope of a promising future to a people that had long despaired under some of the most repressive military regimes in the western hemisphere. We salute them.

Haiti has had a tortured history. The memories of the anguish that the general population had to endure under the former military rulers, the militia and their sympathizers will linger in the minds of the majority of the people of Haiti for a very long time to come. A sense of insecurity pervades the national political psyche in Haiti — and for good reason. Suspicions and fears of a

possible return to the past — that is, to a lawless and dictatorial past — are ever present in the minds of those who have known nothing but oppression and more oppression all their lives. UNMIH has brought the people of Haiti relative peace and tranquillity such as they had never experienced.

It is no wonder, therefore, that any talk of the withdrawal of UNMIH recalls for them the unforgettable memories of the oppression of earlier years, as the Haitians feel left without any protection. The people of Haiti are not yet confident that the fledgling Haitian National Police can afford them adequate protection against elements of the former Government forces, which they fear, rightly or wrongly, still retain the capacity to destabilize the emerging democratic institutions. They have the sympathy and understanding of my delegation.

The United Nations Mission in Haiti was not expected to solve every problem it found in the country. It has been in Haiti to help establish a secure and stable environment in which both presidential and legislative elections could be held in a free and fair atmosphere. That has been accomplished. Responsibility for institution-building, national reconciliation, confidence-building and the economic rehabilitation of Haiti rests with the Government and the people of Haiti themselves. But it is clear that this is not a responsibility that can be left to the people of Haiti alone.

The internal security of the country is not yet assured, and reconstruction and national healing cannot take place in conditions of instability. It is for this reason that my delegation supported the recommendation of the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH). The draft resolution before us establishes UNSMIH. UNSMIH will contribute in no small measure to the training of a professional police force in Haiti capable of ensuring the protection and security of the general population and its property. And, more important, it will reassure the people of Haiti that the international community is not about to abandon them, and will thus frustrate the intentions of elements of the former military and militia forces who may be bent on fomenting trouble in the country when the United Nations leaves.

True, the draft resolution we are about to vote on does not give the Government of Haiti what it had expected, but this happens in any negotiation process.

What is important in the circumstances is for the Haiti authorities to fully utilize the resources being made available to them under UNSMIH. This will be especially necessary in the training of a professional police force which can gain the full confidence of the people and proudly assume all the national security responsibilities in the country. And we are confident that UNSMIH will assist the Haitians in realizing that national dream which is the pride of all nations.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Botswana for the kind words he addressed to me in his usual eloquent fashion.

Mr. Wlosowicz (Poland): The delegation of Poland is going to vote in favour of the draft resolution establishing the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH). We strongly believe that the international community has an obligation to assist the Government and the people of Haiti in their struggle for stability and normalcy in that country.

With the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) nearing its conclusion, the Polish delegation would like to pay tribute to all those who contributed to its success, with special emphasis on the particularly generous contribution of the Governments of Canada and the United States. We would like to pay tribute to all the men and women of UNMIH. Their work was crucial for laying the foundations for the democratic future of Haiti.

Now, as we enter a new phase in that country's life, it is time to assess, together with the authorities of Haiti, what has to be done in order to consolidate democratic changes in Haiti and, as stressed in the draft resolution, to support the commitment of the Government of Haiti to maintain the secure and stable environment established by the Multinational Force in Haiti and extended with the assistance of the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

From this standpoint, the further strengthening of the rule of law is indeed of paramount importance. The United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, which the Security Council is about to establish, will be mandated to assist the Government of Haiti in dealing with one of the essential problems that Government is faced with, namely the professionalization of the police and the creation and training of an effective national police force. These are tasks crucial for the consolidation of democracy and the revitalization of Haiti's system of justice. The draft resolution recognizes the link between peace and security. It is aimed at creating an environment conducive to further involvement by the international community and by international financial institutions in

the development of Haiti. This is necessary for the economic rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country, whose progress towards the consolidation of democracy deserves our full support.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/1996/478.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Botswana, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1063 (1996).

I shall now call on those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mrs. Albright (United States of America): Today, the Council acts once again to assist Haiti in its journey from tyranny to democracy. In so doing, it contributes to regional stability and serves well the principles of human rights, freedom and social progress that are inscribed in the United Nations Charter.

Since assuming responsibility from the United-States-led Multinational Force early last year, the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) has helped to ensure a climate of security within which free elections could be held, economic activity could increase, political reconciliation could occur and the construction of democratic institutions could begin. These activities have advanced the cause of freedom and human development throughout the hemisphere.

Today, in response to the request of Haitian President René Préval, we have approved the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH), as a follow-on to UNMIH. Its mandate is to assist the Government of Haiti in professionalizing the police and in maintaining the secure environment required for the welcome changes in Haiti to solidify and grow deeper roots.

History teaches us that the construction of a durable and democratic society is not an event, but a process. In Haiti, that process requires the patience needed to heal old wounds and learn new ways.

The Haiti of three years ago was infected by despotic and illegitimate leaders. The army and police were used not as instruments of national defence or civil order, but as the means of repression. Between October 1991 and September 1994, thousands of Haitians were murdered, tens of thousands were terrorized into hiding and tens of thousands or more took to the seas. Let us not forget — for the people of Haiti will never forget — that when the illegitimate leaders fled, they left behind, nailed to the walls of prison offices and police stations, the obscene photos of those they had ordered tortured, abused and killed.

Today, thanks in part to the actions of this Council, Haiti is recovering. The Government chosen by the people is committed to serving the people. The systematic deprivation of human rights has come to an end. The pervasive fear has been replaced by a resurgence of hope. The process of economic revitalization is under way.

But Haiti continues to need a helping hand against those who will use violence or corruption to obtain what they cannot, or will not, earn through honest work. Haiti needs the means by which to protect itself from these lawless elements, but the past perversion of power has required that this capability be built from the ground up. That process of building effective law enforcement, judicial and prosecutorial capabilities takes time.

In the months ahead, the United Nations role in Haiti will continue to diminish. Not that long ago, there were 22,000 foreign troops in Haiti. In February of last year, a United Nations deployment of 6,000 was approved. Today's resolution authorizes a United-Nations-funded force of 600 military, with the understanding that additional troops will be funded on a voluntary basis by the United States and Canada to keep 1,300 troops ready to assist the Haitian Government and the civilian police monitors. This trend is a dramatic rebuttal to those who suggested that any intervention in Haiti would lead, as in the past, to occupation.

Over the next five months, international civilian police monitors will continue their efforts to professionalize the fully deployed, but still inexperienced, Haitian National Police. The United Nations military

contingent will help deter those who might be tempted to disrupt the democratization process.

At the same time, it is vital that the Haitian Government and the international financial institutions agree on the terms of economic assistance. Friends of Haiti, both governmental and non-governmental, must continue their efforts to help Haitian society move ahead, and the door to private investment must be open. There is no better answer to the plagues of Haiti's past than freedom, jobs, basic education and the means for average citizens to put food on the table for their families.

The international presence in Haiti is designed to bolster the ability of freely elected leaders to exercise sovereign power. That is a necessary and proper role, but it is also temporary. Ultimately, Haitian authorities will have to assume full responsibility for public order. They understand and desire that. Our shared objective is to accomplish that transition in a manner that allows economic and social progress to accelerate.

In closing, I want to express the gratitude and admiration of my Government to those who have contributed to the United Nations Mission in Haiti, and especially to the Government of Canada, which since February has fulfilled in an outstanding manner the leadership role.

We are heartened as well by the continued strong support for Haitian democracy that has been demonstrated by the Organization of American States and by the members of this Council. This support reflects the fact that Haiti's progress has had, and continues to have, consequences beyond the borders of that country.

The future of a democratic Haiti is not assured, but the international community can be satisfied that those with the commitment to build a free Haiti have that chance. By allowing that opening, this Council has kept faith with the people of Haiti and honoured its own responsibility as a guardian of international security, law and peace.

Mr. Dejammet (France) (*interpretation from French*): The United Nations operation in Haiti is without doubt one of the great success stories of the Organization in recent times. It has made it possible to consolidate the democratic transition in that country by helping the Government to establish a public force that respects the law and is capable of maintaining public order and security. France, which has a special relationship with Haiti and provides it with bilateral aid, has contributed to the United Nations Mission by providing a major portion of the civilian police component.

President Préval, in a letter addressed 31 May 1996 to the Secretary-General, stressed the fact that the Haitian police was not yet able to shoulder its responsibilities and requested a six-month extension of international assistance. That request was supported by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in a resolution adopted on 6 June. The Secretary-General, in his report of 5 June, recognized that despite the progress made by the Haitian police, assistance should be continued. He proposed the establishment of the new United Nations Support Mission in Haiti.

France lent its support to the Secretary-General's proposal. It was our belief that a sudden interruption in assistance to Haiti could in fact compromise the results obtained thus far, as any deterioration in the situation in Haiti could have a negative impact on the democratic process and on regional stability.

The resolution is based on the basic elements of the Secretary-General's proposal. In order to make consensus possible, certain elements of that proposal relating to the duration of the mandate and the strength of the Mission were not incorporated in their entirety. However, thanks to the efforts that Canada and the United States have agreed to make, the nature and the resources of the future Mission are not affected.

The French delegation voted in favour of the resolution and welcomes its adoption by consensus. This unanimity attests to the United Nations success in Haiti.

France's contribution to the new Mission should be comparable to the one it made to the United Nations Mission in Haiti.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Egypt.

Egypt voted in favour of the resolution creating the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the successor to the United Nations Mission in Haiti, for a number of important reasons.

First, it is important that the international community close ranks in support of the democratic transformations in Haiti and Haiti's social and economic reconstruction in an environment of security and stability.

That would promote the development and flourishing of democracy which, will be translated into well-being for the Haitian people.

Secondly, the Egyptian Government is convinced that the request from the President of the Republic of Haiti for a continued international presence for a further six months, supported by a resolution of the Organization of American States, provides sufficient arguments to merit the Council's response. We therefore express our satisfaction that the resolution adopted represents a response to Haiti's requests.

International organizations and agencies must continue their undoubtedly effective role in assisting the Haitian Government to create strong economic and social infrastructures capable of shoring up the achievements of democracy.

The delegation of Egypt expresses its deep appreciation to all States that have responded constructively to Haiti's requests. We thank the Friends of Haiti, as well as the Governments of the United States and of Canada, for their contributions towards ensuring success and consensus in the Security Council.

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi for his effective, constructive role during his service as Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We wish the current Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Enrique ter Horst, every success in the mission entrusted to him.

I now resume my function as President of the Security Council. I call on the Permanent Representative of Haiti, who has asked to make a statement.

Mr. Lelong (Haiti) (*interpretation from French*): I would like first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your presidency of the Security Council during the month of June, which is coming to an end with deliberations on the question of Haiti.

The Haitian delegation welcomes the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1063 (1996), authorizing the establishment of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH) for a period of five months. This new Mission, which will follow the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) when its mandate expires in two days, should enable the Government to maintain the atmosphere of security in the country while it proceeds to strengthen and professionalize the police, with the assistance of the international community.

The Haitian delegation is grateful to the Council for having duly appreciated the situation that a withdrawal of international support at this stage could have created, and for having acceded to President Préval's request for the continuation of an international presence in Haiti.

The Government of Haiti and the population as a whole were apprehensive about the approach of the deadline of 30 June 1996, when UNMIH's mandate was due to expire. The departure from Haiti of the United Nations troops while the National Police, still inexperienced and under-equipped, are not in a position to take over, would pose a serious problem for the Haitian State and could jeopardize all the efforts the Government has already made to establish the rule of law and rebuild the country.

Despite remarkable results achieved in combating crime and maintaining public order, security is still precarious. In this context, the proliferation in the country of criminal groups making a living from robbery, extortion, kidnapping and drug-trafficking creates upheaval among a population still traumatized by the acts of repression of past dictatorial and military regimes.

Similarly, the recent attacks on members of the National Police, eight of whom have been killed, as well as the street demonstrations organized by members of the former Haitian army, even though they do not pose an immediate threat to the Government, must nonetheless be taken seriously in the context of impediments to strengthening democracy.

The Government is aware, however, that security and stability cannot be assured solely by the Police, however well equipped they might be, and that the situation calls for dialogue, tolerance, understanding and above all economic development. The desired results cannot be seen in the struggle against insecurity and the strengthening of institutions unless the population's economic and social conditions are improved.

Measures have been taken to address the serious economic and social problems facing the country. A very ambitious programme has been drawn up which should enable the country to emerge from its economic stagnation within three years. The success of this plan, however, will depend on maintaining the atmosphere of security in the country.

The adoption of this resolution therefore encourages the Government in its untiring efforts, as it sees the

international community supporting Haiti's economic, social and institutional development.

My delegation is very pleased to be able to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General, and in particular to his former Special Representative, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, and to his current Representative, Mr. Enrique ter Horst, as well as to all the personnel of UNMIH, for their dedication to the cause of democracy in Haiti. We also extend our thanks to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and to the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on the Council, which have invariably supported Haiti by unanimously supporting the requests made by President Préval.

I cannot overlook the vital role played by the group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Haiti — Argentina, Canada, Chile, France, the United States of America and Venezuela. In particular, I thank Canada and the United States of America, which have demonstrated a special commitment to assisting Haiti in its move towards peace, stability and development.

Our sincere thanks also go the delegations of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation for their understanding and support.

To all those delegations that have participated in one way or another in the deliberations of the Council, I wish on behalf of the Government and people of Haiti to express our deep gratitude.

The President (*interpretation from Arabic*): I thank the representative of Haiti for his kind words addressed to me.

There are no further speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3677th Meeting

Wednesday, 3 July 1996, 12.55 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dejammet	(France)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Legwaila
	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Sane
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wibisono
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Poland	Mr. Włosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995) (S/1996/456)

96-85897 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*interpretation from French*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Nabil Elaraby, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of June. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Elaraby for the great skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month. I am quite certain that Ambassador Awaad will convey this very sincere and unanimous tribute of the Council to Ambassador Elaraby, and I take this opportunity to thank the entire Egyptian delegation for the way in which it supported its Ambassador during his presidency of the Council in June.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995) (S/1996/456)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Croatia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nobilo (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the further report on the situation of human rights in Croatia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1019 (1995), document S/1996/456.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the further report of the Secretary-General of 21 June 1996 (S/1996/456) submitted pursuant to its resolution 1019 (1995) on Croatia.

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at the failure by the Croatian Government to take sufficient measures to safeguard the rights of the local Serb population and to ensure their safety and well-being. The Council is also deeply concerned at the Croatian Government's failure to promote conditions, including satisfactory procedures, facilitating the return of all Croatian Serbs who wish to do so. The Council strongly deplores such failure to act.

"The Security Council notes that the Croatian Government has begun to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, and that it has considered various initiatives for the protection of minority rights. Nevertheless the Council underlines that the Croatian Government must undertake determined and sustained efforts to ensure respect for and protection of the rights of Croatian Serbs and to provide for their safeguarding in the legal and constitutional framework of the Republic of Croatia, including by the reactivation of the relevant articles of its Constitutional Law. The Council reminds the Croatian Government that its obligation to promote respect for and protection of such rights cannot be made conditional upon other factors, including upon political negotiations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"The Security Council expects the Croatian Government to take steps forthwith to comply with the demands contained in its resolution 1019 (1995) and in its statements of 8 January 1996 (S/PRST/1996/2), 23 February 1996 (S/PRST/1996/8) and 22 May 1996 (S/PRST/1996/26).

"The Security Council reiterates that all States must cooperate fully with the International Tribunal and its organs established pursuant to its resolution 827 (1993). It notes the cooperation by the Croatian Government with the International Tribunal to date, and reminds the Croatian Government of its obligation to execute arrest warrants in respect of any person in its territory indicted by the Tribunal. The Council calls upon the Croatian Government, with due respect to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to use its influence with the Bosnian Croat leadership to ensure their cooperation with the Tribunal.

"The Security Council will continue to follow this issue closely. It requests the Secretary-General to keep it regularly informed on measures undertaken by the Croatian Government in the light of this statement, and to report in any case no later than 1 September 1996."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/29.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.3678

Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3678th Meeting

Wednesday, 3 July 1996, 1.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Dejammet	(France)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Legwaila
	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	China	Mr. Wang Xuexian
	Egypt	Mr. Awaad
	Germany	Mr. Eitel
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Sane
	Honduras	Mr. Martínez Blanco
	Indonesia	Mr. Wibisono
	Italy	Mr. Cardi
	Poland	Mr. Wlosowicz
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Richmond
	United States of America	Mr. Inderfurth

Agenda

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1043 (1996) (S/1996/472 and Add.1)

96-83903 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-178.

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Croatia

Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1043 (1996) (S/1996/472 and Add.1)

The President (*interpretation from French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Croatia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nobilo (Croatia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, documents S/1996/472 and Addendum 1.

I should like to draw the attention of the members of the Council to document S/1996/500, which contains the text of a letter dated 28 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council, in accordance with paragraph 6 of resolution 1037 (1995), has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 26 June 1996 (S/1996/472) submitted pursuant to this resolution on the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES).

"The Security Council notes that the implementation of the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (S/1995/951, annex), signed on 12 November 1995 (the Basic Agreement), is proceeding according to the timetable established by this Agreement. In particular it notes with appreciation that the demilitarization proceeded smoothly and was completed on 20 June 1996. It expresses its satisfaction at the cooperation that both parties have shown in this respect. It calls upon both sides to refrain from any action that might raise tension and to continue to cooperate closely with UNTAES on all aspects of the Basic Agreement to maintain peace and security in the Region. It expresses its readiness to consider favourably the extension of the mandate of the United Nations military observers in UNTAES as recommended in the report.

"The Security Council expresses its satisfaction with the work already achieved by UNTAES, in particular through its operational joint implementation committees, for the re-establishment of normal conditions of life for all the inhabitants of the Region. The Council welcomes the efforts now in train to begin the return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes in the Region. It notes that it is equally important that persons who fled from their homes in Western Slavonia and elsewhere in Croatia, in particular in the Krajina, should be permitted to return to their homes of origin. The Council calls upon both parties to cooperate fully with UNTAES in that respect.

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 22 May 1996 (S/PRST/1996/26). The Council regrets that the Government of the Republic of Croatia has not yet taken steps to adopt a comprehensive amnesty law concerning all persons who, either voluntarily or by coercion, served in the civil administration, military or police forces of the local Serb authorities in the former United Nations Protected Areas, with the exception of those who committed war crimes as defined in international law. The Council urges that this action should betaken as soon as possible and calls on the

Croatian Government to cooperate with UNTAES to that end.

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the worsening economic situation in the Region, particularly since the closure in April of the Djeletovci oilfields, which constitute the Region's most important economic resource, and at the subsequent lack of revenue available to the local administration to meet salaries and other operating costs of the Region. The Council urges the Government of the Republic of Croatia to cooperate closely with UNTAES to identify and provide funding for the local administration and public services. It also underlines the importance of economic development in stabilizing the Region.

"The Security Council expresses its support for the efforts of UNTAES to establish and train a Transitional Police Force which will have the primary responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, operating under the authority of the Transitional Administrator and monitored by the United Nations civilian police. The Council also supports the efforts of UNTAES and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate mine clearing for humanitarian purposes. It calls upon States and others concerned urgently to contribute in support of such activities.

"The Security Council commends the Transitional Administrator and all the personnel of UNTAES for the impressive results they have achieved so far and expresses its full support for them.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/30.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.